



earlall

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL & LOCAL
AUTHORITIES FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Webinar

Promoting democratic engagement of young people at the local and regional level

Speakers from:



Regione Toscana



REGION
VÄSTRA GÖTALAND



European
Citizens'
Initiative



15 December, 10–12 CET



Agenda

10h00: **Welcome and introductory remarks**

Miriana Bucalossi, Head of Apprenticeships, Work-Based Learning Policies and EU Project Management Team in the Tuscany Region and Camilla Winter, coordinator of the EARLALL Academy

10h10: **The European Elections and the European Citizens Initiative**

Barbara Walentynowicz, Policy Officer for the European Citizens' Initiative, European Commission

10.30: **Citizenship and Engaging Young People: Challenges and Opportunities in Tuscany**

Bernard Dika (Spokesman and Senior Advisor to the President of Tuscany for innovation and youth policy); Sabrina Boschi, Third Year Student at Sciences Po; Members of the Giovanisi Task Force: Giulia Grassini and Alessandro Rosati

Short break

11h10: **Lifelong Learning and Young People Participation: Västra Götaland**

Jonas Abrahamsson, Project Coordinator at Västra Götaland

11h30: **Outreach to young people for the elections**

Ana Valiente, European Parliament

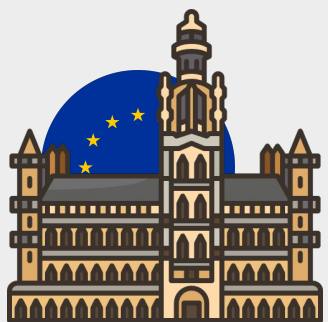
11h50: **Questions and Answers**

12h00 Closure

Who are we?

It is an international non-profit association of governments and local authorities willing to build concrete cooperation in the field of lifelong learning.

EARLALL believes that regions and local authorities have a privileged role in designing and implementing strategies for lifelong learning since they are in direct contact with citizens, educational institutions and the business environment.



The network was established in 2001 and its secretariat is based in Brussels, Belgium. The Presidency is held by the Basque Country.



Our Network

→ Presidency held by the Basque Country, 5 board members

→ 12 Members, 5 Associate Members

→ 12 Regions

→ 11 Countries

→ 40 million+ inhabitants





Discover the European Citizens' Initiative

Barbara Walentynowicz, ECI Policy Officer

Participatory democracy: options at EU level

- Vote or run as a candidate in European elections
- Public consultations /EU Have Your Say Portal
- European Citizens' Panels
- Petitions to the European Parliament
- **European Citizens' Initiative**



“*What is the ECI?*”

- The **European Citizens’ Initiative** is a participatory democracy tool that gives EU citizens the **right** to have a say in EU policies that affect them, by calling on the European Commission to propose new laws. Once an initiative has reached 1 million signatures, the Commission will decide on what action to take.
- To launch an initiative, it takes 7 EU citizens, living in at least 7 different Member States who are old enough to vote. If 1 million valid signatures are reached within 1 year– they meet with lawmakers and get an official response from the European Commission
- Citizens’ initiatives must meet certain criteria

“Why should I care about the ECI?”

1. The ECI brings new ideas that haven't been considered yet on the radar of EU and other policymakers
2. The ECI gives you and other EU citizens the right to take action on issues you care about – and you can help organisers by supporting their ideas

Competences of the EU



NON-DISCRIMINATION
& CITIZENSHIP



EMPLOYMENT &
SOCIAL AFFAIRS



EDUCATION,
TRAINING,
YOUTH & SPORT



HUMANITARIAN AID,
DEVELOPMENT &
COOPERATION



JUSTICE, FREEDOM
& SECURITY



And many
others...



CONSUMER
PROTECTION



PUBLIC
HEALTH



AGRICULTURE
&
FISHERIES



ENERGY



ENVIRONMENT &
CLIMATE ACTION

WHERE CAN CITIZENS
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
WITH THE **EUROPEAN
CITIZENS'** INITIATIVE?

Ongoing Initiatives



COLLECTION ONGOING

Trust and Freedom

9,768 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

Effective implementation of the concept of judicial precedent in EU countries

171 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

Taxing great wealth to finance the ecological and social transition.

96,800 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

European Day of "Whatever it Takes"

189 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

Ensuring a dignified reception of migrants in Europe

10,079 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

European Citizens' Initiative for VEGAN MEAL

4,145 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

End The Horse Slaughter Age

7,731 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

Article 4: Stop torture and inhuman treatment at Europe's borders

10,579 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

Connecting all European capitals and people through a high-speed train network

37,637 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)



COLLECTION ONGOING

CALL TO ACHIEVE A TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT AND THE FIRST EUROPEAN TOBACCO-FREE GENERATION BY 2030

22,516 supporters

[Support this initiative](#)

Registered Initiatives - starting soon

Creation of a European Environment Authority

- Current status: Registered
- Registration number: ECI(2023)000011
- Signature collection starting soon



EU Live Bus Stop Info

- Current status: Registered
- Registration number: ECI(2023)000008
- Signature collection starting soon



'I'm Going European': An ECI to Connect your National and European Citizenship

- Current status: Registered
- Registration number: ECI(2023)000010
- Signature collection starting soon



Preservation and development of Ukrainian culture, education, language, and traditions in EU states

- Current status: Registered
- Registration number: ECI(2023)000007
- Signature collection starting soon



The ECI in action –

6 Steps to turn an idea into a citizens' initiative



1 milion
signatures in
at least 7 EU
countries



“How can I get involved with the ECI?”

As an EU citizen, you can:

- Sign an ongoing initiative
- Support an initiative (volunteer time, promotion, etc.)
- Start a new initiative

“What can I achieve by starting/ supporting an ECI?”

“The European Citizens’ Initiative helps bring causes you care about to the EU level.”

- Spark a debate
- Raise awareness
- Trigger policy change in the EU

Facts & Figures – overview since 2012

107 initiatives
registered



10 initiatives
collecting
signatures



10 initiatives
replied by the EC



18 million+
signatures
collected



10 successful initiatives replied

1. Right2Water
2. One of us
3. Stop Vivisection
4. Ban Glyphosate & limit pesticides
5. Minority Safepack
6. End the Cage Age
7. Save Bees and Farmers
8. Stop Finning - Stop the Trade
9. Save Cruelty-Free Cosmetics
10. Fur Free Europe

Recently replied Initiatives (2023)





How to make the ECI better known to young people?

The toolkit

Teachers can use the **Educational toolkit** “**EU Democracy in Action**”-**Have your say with the European Citizens’ Initiative**” to introduce students to the topic of democratic participation in the EU.

The toolkit includes:

- Manuals for teachers and students, including videos and interactive exercises
- 4 units in all languages



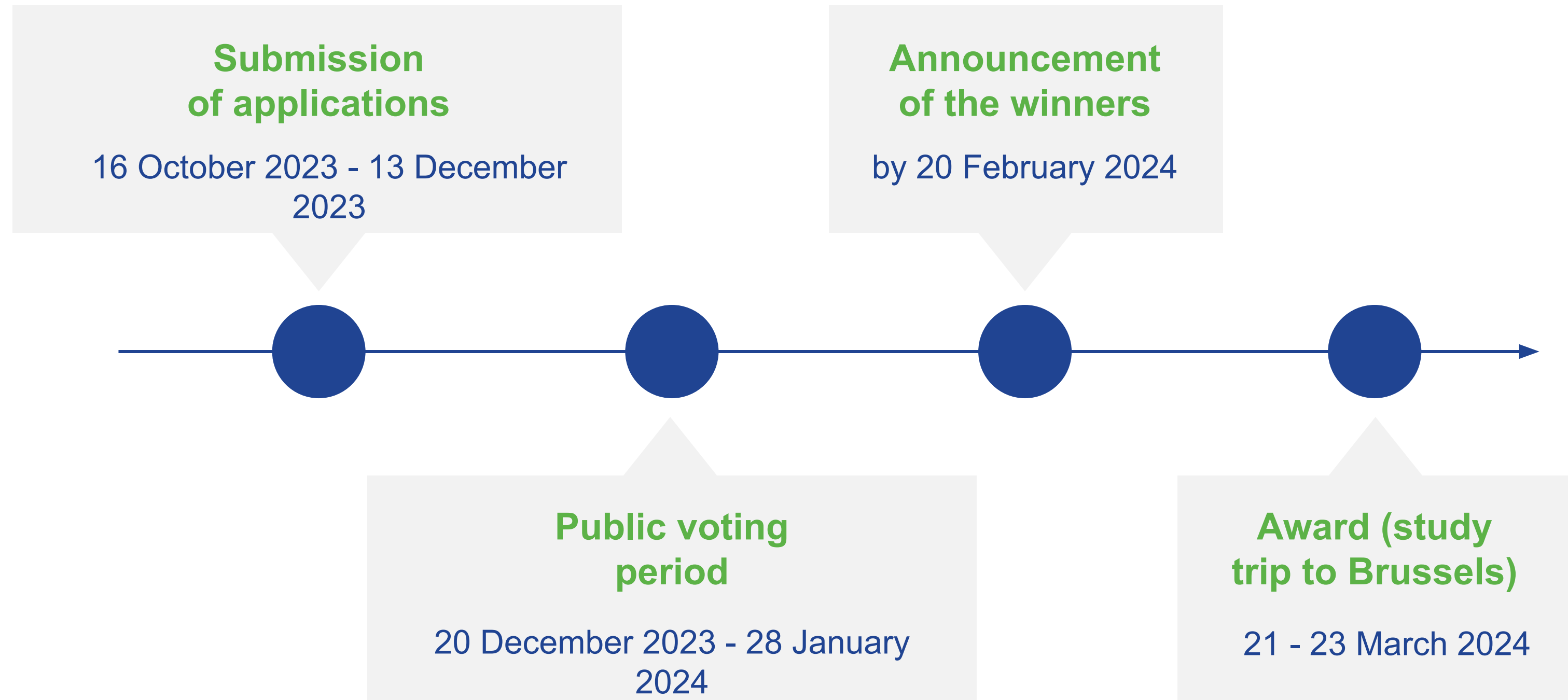
School competition

The ImagineEU competition asks teenagers to think of how the EU could become an even better place to live!

- Inspired by the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), students are called on to learn more about how to be active citizens in the EU.
- In groups, they think of a change they would like to see in the EU and make a short video explaining their idea.



Timeline



ECI Facebook group, social media



European Citizens' Initiative Official Group

+ Invite



Find out more & stay in touch



ECI WEBSITE
[HTTPS://EUROPA.EU/CITIZENS-INITIATIVE/](https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/)



ECI FORUM WEBSITE
[HTTPS://EUROPA.EU/CITIZENS-INITIATIVE-FORUM/](https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative-forum/)



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER (EN+ 23 EU LANGUAGES)
[HTTPS://EUROPA.EU/CITIZENS-INITIATIVE/NEWSLETTER/](https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/newsletter/)



ECI EDUCATIONAL TOOLKIT
[HTTPS://CITIZENS-INITIATIVE.EUROPA.EU/SCHOOLS/ECI-EDUCATIONAL-TOOLKIT](https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/schools/eci-educational-toolkit)



CITIZENCENTRAL PODCAST
[HTTPS://EUROPA.EU/CITIZENS-INITIATIVE/CITIZENCENTRAL-PODCAST_EN](https://europa.eu/citizens-initiative/citizencentral-podcast_en)



FB GROUP
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/ECIOFFICIALGROUP](https://www.facebook.com/groups/eciofficialgroup)



LOCAL CONTACTS
ECI AMBASSADORS & NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

Citizenship and Engaging Young People: Challenges and Opportunities in Tuscany

- Bernard Dika (Spokesman and Senior Advisor to the President of Tuscany for innovation and youth policy)
- Sabrina Boschi, Third Year Student at Sciences Po
- Members of the Giovanisi Task Force: Giulia Grassini and Alessandro Rosati



Regione Toscana

GIOVANI *SI'*

Citizenship and Engaging Young People: Challenges and Opportunities in Tuscany

Speakers

Bernard Dika

Spokesman and Senior Advisor to the President of Tuscany Region for innovation and youth policy

- **Sabrina Boschi**- *Student Science Po*
- **Giulia Grassini**- *Giovanisì Office in Florence (Italy)*
- **Alessandro Rosati** - *Student and member of Task Force Giovanisì*

giovanisi.it
portavoce@regione.toscana.it



“With Giovanisì the Tuscany Region has managed to create opportunities like never before. Above all, an opportunity to make people understand how important it is to fight that sense of helplessness young people have.”

“We ask young people to trust but the real challenge is to entrust responsibility to our generation.”

“The present is the only time when, through our actions we can make our future less uncertain.”

Bernard Dika, Advisor to President Giani for Youth Policies and Innovation



“Sometimes you don't need time to grow, you just need a path to follow”

In a democratic society, individuals have a responsibility to be actively engaged citizens.

Young people are not mere future protagonists but the present itself.

They are the present.





GIOVANI SÌ

Why “You Are the Present”

It is not easy to talk about “**You Are the Present**” in one word or one sentence.

You Are the Present, which was held on October 18th, 2021, hosting over 400 people including young people, influencers and institutions, was many things: **an event to celebrate the ten years of Giovanisì**, the project of the Tuscany Region for the autonomy of young people, which was attended by the **President of the Italian Republic Sergio Mattarella** and in which the stories of the beneficiaries of the regional project were told, but also stories of positive models of active citizenship, coming from the world of healthcare, innovation and sports, animated by the desire to lead the change.

You Are the Present was also an invitation to young people to position themselves at the forefront, to be direct actors in the social and political life of the Region, to change what most closely concerns them. During the day, 80 young Tuscans under 40 were involved in a **participatory process**, with the aim of giving life to a debate structured on regional policies regarding the theme of **culture**.

You are the Present, however, was also a chance to reflect on the progress of European investment funds, the methods of supporting

youth policies and culture, also to better define the lines of action for the future 2021-2027 program, with **the annual event of the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and ESF (European Social Fund) programs**.

The splendid *Villa del Gombo*, recently restored, within the **Migliarino San Rossore Massaciuccoli Park in Pisa**, was the setting for this group of initiatives.





Giovanisì Task Force for Youth Participation



Next Generation Fest- 2^a edition
21 October 2023, Florence



Regione Toscana

GIOVANI SÌ



Regione Toscana

GIOVANI SÌ

**Next Generation
Fest** ★ 21 OTTOBRE 2023
TEATRO DEL MAGGIO, FIRENZE



sotto l'alto patrocinio del Parlamento europeo

Elezioni europee 6-9 giugno 2024

#NGF23 **È** UN EVENTO
SOTTO L'ALTO PATROCINIO
DEL **PARLAMENTO EUROPEO**



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Next Generation Fest- 2^a edition
21 October 2023, Florence



Giovanisì on Tour





Giovanisì on Tour





Regione Toscana

GIOVANI *si*

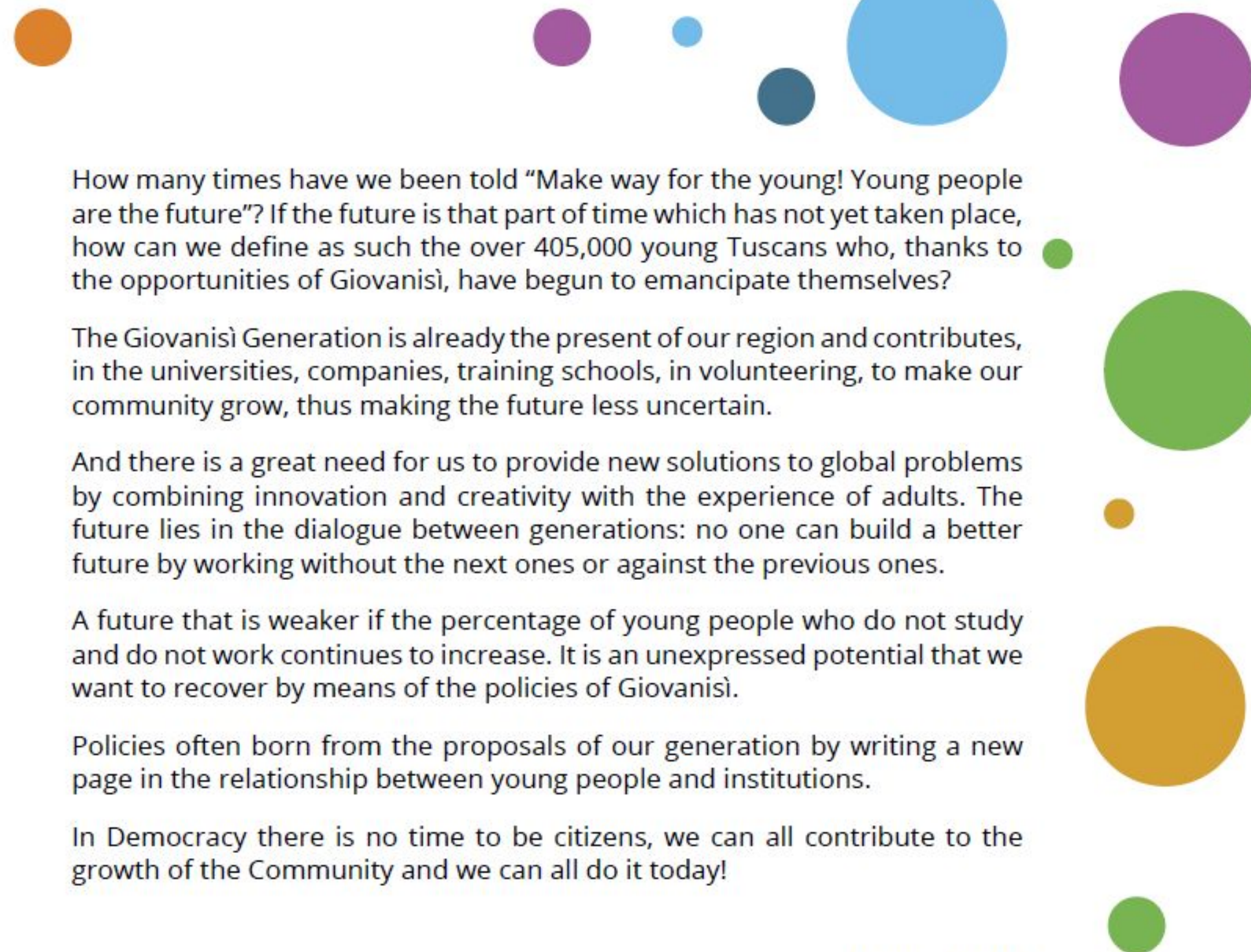
In order to help you focus on the images, here is a video telling the story of Giovanisì.



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GENERATION GIOVANISÌ



How many times have we been told “Make way for the young! Young people are the future”? If the future is that part of time which has not yet taken place, how can we define as such the over 405,000 young Tuscans who, thanks to the opportunities of Giovanisì, have begun to emancipate themselves?

The Giovanisì Generation is already the present of our region and contributes, in the universities, companies, training schools, in volunteering, to make our community grow, thus making the future less uncertain.

And there is a great need for us to provide new solutions to global problems by combining innovation and creativity with the experience of adults. The future lies in the dialogue between generations: no one can build a better future by working without the next ones or against the previous ones.

A future that is weaker if the percentage of young people who do not study and do not work continues to increase. It is an unexpressed potential that we want to recover by means of the policies of Giovanisì.

Policies often born from the proposals of our generation by writing a new page in the relationship between young people and institutions.

In Democracy there is no time to be citizens, we can all contribute to the growth of the Community and we can all do it today!

Bernard Dika
Advisor to President Giani
for Youth Policies and Innovation

Thank you for your attention!

giovanisi.it

portavoce@regione.toscana.it



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Lifelong Learning and Young People Participation: Västra Götaland

- Jonas Abrahamsson, Project Coordinator at Västra Götaland



Jonas Abrahamsson
Project manager

Region Västra Götaland – The administration of Folk High Schools



NEET
young people Not in Education, Employment or Training





Project partners:



Oslo



Save the Children



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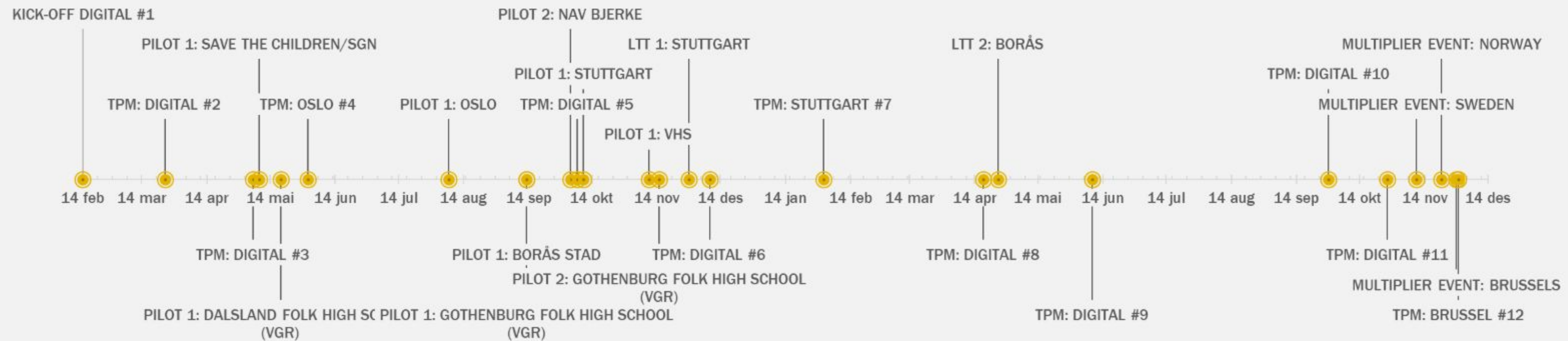
Project activities:

Local pilots

Germany
Norway
Sweden

Workshops

Germany
Sweden



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PROJECT RESULTS & OUTPUTS



PROJECT OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Tables did
turn!

Who was
the trainer and
who was the
learner?

"You must
unlearn what
you have
learnt"

Knowledge in
your backpack
rather than a
shield in front of
you

No more
empty
vessels?

Knowledge is
created
together!

PROJECT OUTCOMES & IMPACT

➡ Tables did turn!

➡ Who was the trainer and who was the learner?



PROJECT OUTCOMES & IMPACT

➡ Tables did turn!

➡ Who was the trainer and who was the learner?



"knowledge itself is power"

PROJECT OUTCOMES & IMPACT

➡ Tables did turn!

➡ Who was the trainer and who was the learner?



*"You must unlearn what you have learnt,
for becoming the Jedi master"*

"knowledge itself is power"



PROJECT OUTCOMES & IMPACT

➡ Tables did turn!

➡ Who was the trainer and who was the learner?



*"You must unlearn what you have learnt,
for becoming the Jedi master"*

"knowledge itself is power"



Having knowledge in your backpack,
instead of forming it as a shield towards
youth!

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

➡ NEETs' mistrust in the political system

➡ ***Everyone's*** mistrust in the political system

Thank you

Outreach to young people for the elections

- Ana Valiente, European Parliament

HOW TO ENGAGE

YOUNG VOTERS



European Parliament

***WHO ARE
WE?***

YOUTH OUTREACH UNIT

- Youth offer of the European Parliament
- youth-hub.eu
- Opportunities of real participation
- Youth strategy engagement

WHO ARE YOUNG PEOPLE?

a) 12-20

b) 14-24

c) 16-30

d) all of the above

YOUNG PEOPLE

- Youth Outreach Unit target: 16-30 y.o.
- Never simplify the individual, but diversify the group
- See the general in the particular

YOUNG VOTERS
& POLITICAL
PARTICIPATION

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- Myth: Young people are apathetic
- Instead: Young people redefine what we see
as political participation

YOUNG VOTERS AND ELECTIONS

Why does a high vote share matter?

- Strengthens democracy
- Voting is habit forming

REASONS TO VOTE

Let's remember that...

- Laws have an impact on our life
- Everyone should be represented!
- Democracy – not for granted

BARRIERS TO

VOTING

***WHAT IS THE AVERAGE AGE
OF
A WORLD LEADER?***

a) 47

b) 56

c) 62

d) 74

YOUNG VOTERS AND ELECTIONS

What are key barriers for young voters?

- Lack of competence
- Lack of confidence
- Lack of interest from politicians
- Lack of relatable candidates

***TIPS &
TRICKS HOW TO ENGAGE
YOUNG VOTERS***

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

**CONTE
NT**

**STYL
E**

**FORMA
T**

***TAKE YOUNG PEOPLE
SERIOUSLY***

HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

- Elections hub website: elections.europa.eu
- Find out opportunities for youth participation at youth-hub.eu
- Use #EUElections2024 + #UseYourVote
- Invite young people and multipliers to join together.eu community
- Contact YOU for more collaboration opportunities

GET IN TOUCH



youth@ep.europa.eu



[European Youth](#)



[Event ep_eye](#)



[europarl_EYE](#)



European Parliament

Closure



Questions and Answers



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Together for lifelong learning



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