



GenZVotes

Call for Applications for Youth Squads

Hello, Generation Z!

Yes, we are talking to YOU (if you are born between 1996 - 2013).

Today we call you to join us in making democracy count and showing the power of youth vote!

Disinformation and low turnout in democratic elections are putting in danger our democracy. And when democracy is in danger, also are its values like your freedom and your fundamental rights. Join us and make a difference in promoting democratic participation! **Join GenZVotes!**

GenZ Votes: Online Youth Civic Engagement

GenZ Votes is a European project for university students that aims to encourage young people to:

1. Debate and share their policy ideas with fellow citizens and EU decision-makers.
2. Have their say in the future of the EU by going to vote in the next European elections in 2024.

The project is a series of 4 international events from March 2023 to April 2024 where young people come together to brainstorm, film and edit engaging video content for their peers to be active European citizens.

The videos aim to show the power of youth vote, the how and why of different forms of civic participation in national and European elections, and the EU's policy impact on our everyday life.

Final goal? To encourage youth turnout in the next European Parliament elections in May 2024 and engagement with EU decision-makers.

Are you satisfied with the video content on EU policies and their impact on citizens' daily life?



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Because we are not, we think it's high time infotainment came to EU politics and policies! From youth-friendly tutorials on how to vote in the 27 Members States in the 24 EU languages to humorous or satirical reels or vlogs... expect an avalanche of video content on YouTube, Instagram and TikTok!

Are you in, Generation Z?

GenZ Votes: An European-wide Adventure

Discover the events!

1. **16-19 March 2023, Coimbra (Portugal) - Youth Sparks of Change**

Four days with around 30 fellow student leaders from 15 countries, where you will work in groups to: 1. Meet and have some teambuilding with your fellow GenZVoters 2. Learn about video storytelling 3. Create 42 videos of youth historical stories of making a difference.

2. **April 2023, Catania (Italy) - Youth Civic Engagement - Hacking Youth's Democratic Habits**

Three days with around 60 students from 15 countries divided into groups to: 1. Participate in a hackathon about civic engagement challenges. 2. Produce 30 videos based on the hackathon's results for YouTube, Instagram and TikTok.

3. **September 2023 in Thessaloniki (Greece) - A Day in the Life of a European - What EU impacts on Daily Life?**

Three days with around 60 students from 15 countries to work in groups to: 1. Immerse yourself in theater techniques & video-making skills. 2. Create 90 short humorous videos on issues youth care about, linking them to EU policies. 3. Develop 27 tutorials about voting in the European Elections 2024 for each of the 27 Members States (in their national language!)

4. **April 2024, Dubrovnik (Croatia) - Game of Thrones - Removing Barriers to Youth Voting**

Three days with around 90 fellow Europeans from 15 countries to work jointly to: 1. Learn guerrilla marketing and behavioural nudging techniques to improve civic engagement.



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2. Creating **170 videos** on how youth can stimulate voting in their communities (your own Dance with Dragons!)

What happens in between events? As we cannot change the world by taking part in a 3-day event... we propose you a 360-degree hybrid experience for a selected group of student leaders who want to fight youth vote apathy and promote enthusiasm for civic participation.

In between events, you can expect the following:

- Collaborate online in international groups of students to create videos and advance the social media accounts of the project.
- Be active in our Slack community with 30 Europeans from 15 countries and project partners.
- Have fun in our online international Happy Hours held monthly to continue exchanging ideas and keep the engagement high.

GenZ Votes: Your Impact as Youth Activist

You will make an impact by becoming both an EU content creator and a youth activist!

You will go out of your comfort zone and discover how to create relatable, funny and personal storytelling videos to:

1. Change the way audiovisuals impact politics all over Europe.
2. Promote and increase participation in the next 2024 European Parliament Elections.
3. Make EU institutions more youth-friendly and less distant from the citizens' needs.
4. Generate interest in EU policies and topics generally out of reach in the public discourse.
5. Promote civic engagement.
6. Raise awareness of EU citizenship rights.

Are you ready to put yourself out there to foster democratic participation in the European Union?



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GenZ Votes Thanks to Youth Squads

The motor of GenZ will be 4 international teams called the **youth squads**. These are the true protagonists and will be the key to the involvement of their peers through an extensive and creative use of social media. They will take part in all 4 events of the project and develop online activities regularly in between the events.

To ensure students feel supported in their tasks and bonding with each other, the first event of the project in Coimbra is dedicated entirely to them! The launch event is designed as a team and skill-building event to help you get to know your team members, share your aspirations to improve civic participation and build your skill set to create video content.

Youth Squads' Mission

1. **GO VIRAL** - publish regular posts during the entire project that encourage young people to vote in local, national and European elections, engage with politics and policies at all levels, and show the power of youth vote.
2. **DO COLLABS** - network online and offline, share content, and reach out for collaborations with your peers, young Europeans or micro-influencers to encourage civic participation.
3. **SPARK ACTION** - pilot nudging campaigns for other young people and activists to increase civic engagement in their communities and beyond.



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Pick Your Role in the Youth Squad

In composing each squad, we will look for young people to assume one of the following roles:

1. **The Activist** - people with research skills and passion who provide context, briefings, fact-checking and knowledge input. Successful applicants are likely to study law, politics, economics, international relations or related.
2. **The Storyteller** - creative and articulate individuals who can create stories, slogans, and have strong communication skills to explain complex issues attractively and simply to a wide audience. Successful applicants know how to tell a story; they likely have studied philosophy, languages, humanities or literature.
3. **The Actor/Networker** - people with good camera presence and basic acting skills. Charismatic people with public speaking or improvisation skills are a perfect fit! They likely have studied creative arts, acting, journalism or audiovisual communication.
4. **The Editor** - video makers with technical skills to record and edit quality videos. Successful applicants are likely to study audiovisual production, film directing or related.
5. **The Influencer** - people with a transversal skill set for social media: content planning, algorithm, monitoring, thumbnails, and graphic design. Successful applicants are confident on camera; they likely have studied graphic design, marketing, public relations, and communications in general.
6. **The Jack-of-all-trades** - the planner and taskmaster, the motivator who ensures team cohesion and engagement. Here we are looking for a leader able to get the job done while maintaining a united team. Successful applicants are likely to study business administration and management or international business.

DISCLAIMER: if you are studying for a degree not mentioned before and feel you have the skills we are looking for, we absolutely want to hear from you!



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What Will You Get From GenZ Votes?

1. Active participation in the Youth Squad will allow you to **develop hard and soft skills** for your personal and professional development: digital skills, social media strategy, content creation, leadership, public speaking, team management and international networking. These are just a few skills you can develop with GenZVotes, and you will receive an **international training certificate**.
2. Since the project lasts 22 months with a weekly commitment of 3 hours, you can **claim it as a professional experience abroad!** Participating in this project will be **like doing an international internship for which we'll provide a letter of recommendation**.
3. You will bring back home not only **networking opportunities** for your future career but also **European friendships** that can last a lifetime! You will create great memories with your squad around Europe!
4. **Travelling around Europe and having all the international experiences** you missed or paused because of COVID.
5. It is soooo freeeeee: we will cover **travel, accommodation** and most meal expenses for the four events!

Your Commitment As a Changemaker

What does it take to have an impact and make a difference?

We are looking for people to join the GenZ Votes Youth Squads willing to:

1. Be engaged during the entire duration of the project (22 Months), dedicating at least 3 hours weekly to GenZ Votes activities.
2. Participate in-person in our 4 international events.
3. Be a dedicated, present and enthusiastic team player in your Youth Squad to achieve its mission and have a regular online presence.



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4. During the entire project duration, network online and in-person with other associations, micro-influencers, fellow students... to increase youth civic engagement and spread the reach of your videos.
5. Be engaged online in between events to:
 - Collaborate with your peers in the completion and quality of the videos
 - Ensure online civic engagement
 - Be active in our Slack channel and monthly online Happy Hours.

Are You The One We Are Looking For?

If...

1. You see yourself in one of the six roles of the Youth Squads and are ready to take it on!
2. You are an enthusiastic university student from an EU country living in a University College or EucA partner institution.
3. You are passionate about democratic civic engagement and Europe.
4. You are keen on social media and enjoy creating online content to engage others and ignite change.
5. You speak English with ease and confidence, even if not always perfectly, but you are willing to improve (please consider that B2 would be the minimum level needed so you may successfully participate in the project's activities).

...then we count on you to make of GenZVote a success and promote youth civic engagement!!!



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First Step for The Youth Squads: Coimbra!

Our journey together will kick off in **Coimbra**, Portugal, where you will experience engaging activities **with 30 fellow young people from 15 countries** during a four-day event from **16-19 March 2023**.

What will you do in Coimbra?

- You will meet your youth squad and have fun in teambuilding activities to get to know them: you'll be partners in crime for one year and a half!
- Begin your adventure on video making and youth activism via skills-building activities.
- Brainstorm, record and edit 11 videos in English per squad about youth-related events of making a difference through video storytelling!

Youth Squads will focus on the following topics:

1. Historical or current events that show how young people's involvement sparked societal change (ex: Czech Velvet Revolution, May '68 in France, Fridays for Future...)
2. Good news of everyday young civic engagement that goes unnoticed.
3. Little-known yet useful rights EU citizens have, and they need to be aware of.
4. Even more than Erasmus! Available EU opportunities and how to make youth voices heard at the EU level.

Selection process

1. Send us your application by completing this [Google form](#) **by 12 February at 23:59 (Brussels Time)**. The selection will be made on a rolling basis, so hurry up not to miss your opportunity in GenZVotes!
2. Online Interviews will be done on a rolling basis, with the latest ones taking place on 14 and 15 February.
3. The final results will be announced on 16 February (if you applied early, you'll have them before!) and you must confirm your participation by sending your transportation tickets by 22 February at 23:59 (Brussels time). In case of any questions or if you need support for booking your tickets, please contact us at info@euca.eu.



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Logistics

1. All the events will be held in English in person. No remote participation is possible.
2. Once your selection is confirmed by EucA, you need to book and pay autonomously for your means of transport to Coimbra. We will reimburse you up to 200 EUR after your successful participation in the event.
3. For the three nights of the conference, you will stay in shared rooms in a hostel provided and paid for by the organisers. Extra nights in Coimbra must be booked and paid for by you independently from the organisers.
4. The organisers will provide most of the conference meals, the highlight being a dinner all together.

Reimbursement policy

1. Please note that **only attendees who participated in the entire event can be reimbursed**. No reimbursements for no-shows (including for COVID-19-related reasons) or attendees who participate partially or skip sessions.
2. For all **travel** expenses, you will get a **maximum of 200 EUR reimbursement for all transportation expenses**. After the event, you will have to send us receipts of your expenses and your bank account. Only amounts justified with receipts will be reimbursed, **so please make sure not to lose any tickets**. In any case, the maximum amount you will receive is 200 EUR.
3. **Arrivals** are expected on the morning of 16 March, and **departures** are expected on the afternoon of 19 March. Please check the agenda to make sure you can be punctual.
4. When booking your transportation, if there is no flexibility allowed for changes, please consider buying insurance. In any case, reimbursement is still up to 200 EUR.
5. We cover students' **accommodation** for the three nights of the conference (16, 17 and 18 March): you will stay in shared rooms with other attendees in a hostel provided and paid for by the organisers. Extra nights in Coimbra must be booked and paid for by you independently from the organisers.



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6. **No reimbursement for COVID tests** (antigenic or PCR) or other related expenses is foreseen.
7. More information on the reimbursement process will be provided after your conference attendance.

COVID Safety Protocols

All conference attendees, speakers and organisers will have to comply with national legislation and safety protocols in Portugal. COVID-19 passports or PCRs are no longer required; nevertheless, for constantly updated information, please check the website of the European Union to find out what restrictions apply in Portugal: <https://reopen.europa.eu/pt/map/PRT>

Cancellation policy

1. If the organisers cancel the event due to unforeseen conditions, we will reimburse the travel expenses you have booked up to 200 EUR.
2. You won't get reimbursed for your travel expenses if you cannot attend the event for any reason unrelated to the organisers' decisions.

For more information or if you want to say hi, please contact us at info@euca.eu

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