



One of the biggest problems that people in Europe have faced in recent years is radicalization, which is reflected in the declining participation of Europeans in political life and the radical tendencies of the political ideas with which they seem to be concerned, shows. These trends become even more visible in times of crisis. Especially in times of the Corona crisis, in which people are experiencing severe cuts in the exercise of their freedoms, many people are particularly vulnerable to radicalization, in which groups or individuals, through their radical behavior, represent one-sided political views and do not allow other views.

The phenomenon of radicalization is now more often equated with terrorism and violent extremism. Suppose we delve deep into Greek and European history. In that case, we will find that almost everything comes from politics, and the consequences of various radical actions are painful for both society and people. To counteract this, we must give more thought to the role of political education, the recognition of rights, and the strengthening of European cooperation.

- What are the reasons for radicalization and how do radicalization processes work?
- Who are the actors and how is radicalization propagated? How can democratic values be conveyed and realized?
- What democratic means are available to implement initiatives? How does political participation work?
- Which skills have to be acquired to be able to participate in socially relevant topics?

This project aimed to find out how people who may be at risk of radicalization can be methodically strengthened to participate in socially relevant topics, also on a political level.

Organizations from five countries are working together on this project and created a method-set to help adult educators in involving their students in political activism stimulating the democratic dialogue.



Democracy thrives on participation and engagement. The aim of this project is to find out how people who may be at risk of radicalization can be methodically empowered to participate in socially relevant issues at the political level.

As a result, an online article, a guide, and a methods kit addressed to adult educators will be produced.

These methods should also show people who have joined radical groups the importance of democracy and how to participate actively in social and political life again.

In the exchange of best practices, teaching experiences tools, and methods for the development of critical thinking and political activism are conveyed through effective methods in approaches.

Above all, competencies are trained and developed according to the competence model of Krammer Reinhard, history professor and expert for political education such as political judgment competence, political action competence, politics-related methodological competence as well as political practical competence.



The method developed by project partners

You can access the methods in English, German, Italian, Serbian, and Greek at www.political-activism-critical-thinking.eu and download them free of charge.



Civil defense of the local public good - alarming citizens

This method is important in strengthening the individual through building a group that fights for the common good.

This method is a simulation of real circumstances and is based on gathering the group, setting goals, dividing tasks, and executing them. During the exercise, teamwork, cooperation, strategy, and the anticipation of potential problems are practiced.

More citizen participation // E-Participation

E-participation is an internet-based procedure that allows the population to participate in political processes and offers the possibility of launching initiatives.

This exercise deals with the topic of e-Participation/online, initiatives/online, and platforms/online petitions.

Debate - Cinema club

Cinema can be an excellent tool for involving adults in the debate on democratic activism. This approach will have the purpose of soliciting the critical sensitivity of the participants towards the different ways in which an audiovisual text can relate to civil issues. The idea is therefore not only to use a film as a starting point to deal with a social theme by inserting it into a civic education path but also to show how cinematographic practice becomes an instrument of democratic participation and intervention in the public debate.

Critical thinking for survival - Stranded on an island

Critical thinking is required here at the beginning of the game, during the game, and also after the game. In emergency situations, it is always important to gather information, analyze problems, look for alternative solutions and finally find and make decisions. These are all processes that are important in this simulation. The Stranded on an island exercise is a planning/simulation game that requires a lot of critical thinking. After a short introduction to the topic of forms of rule and decision-making processes, the participants have to develop a constitution as part of the exercise.

Write your own open letter

This method is based on the creation of an open letter.

An open letter is a published letter of protest or appeal usually addressed to an individual but intended for the general public. This exercise deals with the topic of democracy applied to civil and social rights.

Methodology for the Evaluation of online sources

Training your critical thinking skills is a prerequisite for evaluating and properly selecting information sources among the many provided by the Internet nowadays. And what is better than exercising critical thinking by following the example of the father of philosophy: Socrates? Socrates' method of retrieving, collating, and structuring knowledge by asking specific questions is also very useful in the context of teams. For this reason, we have chosen an interactive online platform, also known as MIRO, as a tool to practice our method using new technologies.

How to analyze Fake News

This activity is a set up to promote the benefits of Critical Thinking (CT) through desktop research and reflection exercise. With the help of seven questions, the participants practice critical questioning of information.

How to spot Fake News, Create an on Fake News

Exercise critical thinking is very important to educate people of all ages to recognize fake news. This activity is based on a set of methods to identify Fake News by creating your own Fake News.

Theater in the service of developing critical thinking

This exercise is just an introduction, the basis for a long and dedicated process that can take up to several months if participants want to create a play that can be performed. The presented exercise aims only to tickle the imagination of the participants and to draw the basic contours of what could be born from this approach.

Drama-inspired tools for critical thinking

This method is based on the use of theatre to express themselves also in political activism contexts and it promotes critical thinking skills through drama.

CONCLUSION

All methods are based on the common guideline developed by the partners' institutions.

The methods are more successful when based on autonomous, cooperative, and creative learning. With the method set, the project consortium would like to enhance and support a more democratic awareness among adult students and promote their active participation in social and civic life to prevent the radicalization trend.

The projects' results are being implemented as working methods for the participating institutions to enrich their programs and training on-site. At the same time, other adult education organizations and referral stakeholders will benefit from the knowledge and tangible project results, using them to upskill trainers.

We believe the project results will lead to further awareness and engagement with the topic.

The project consortium wishes you a lot of fun trying out the methods!

"The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."