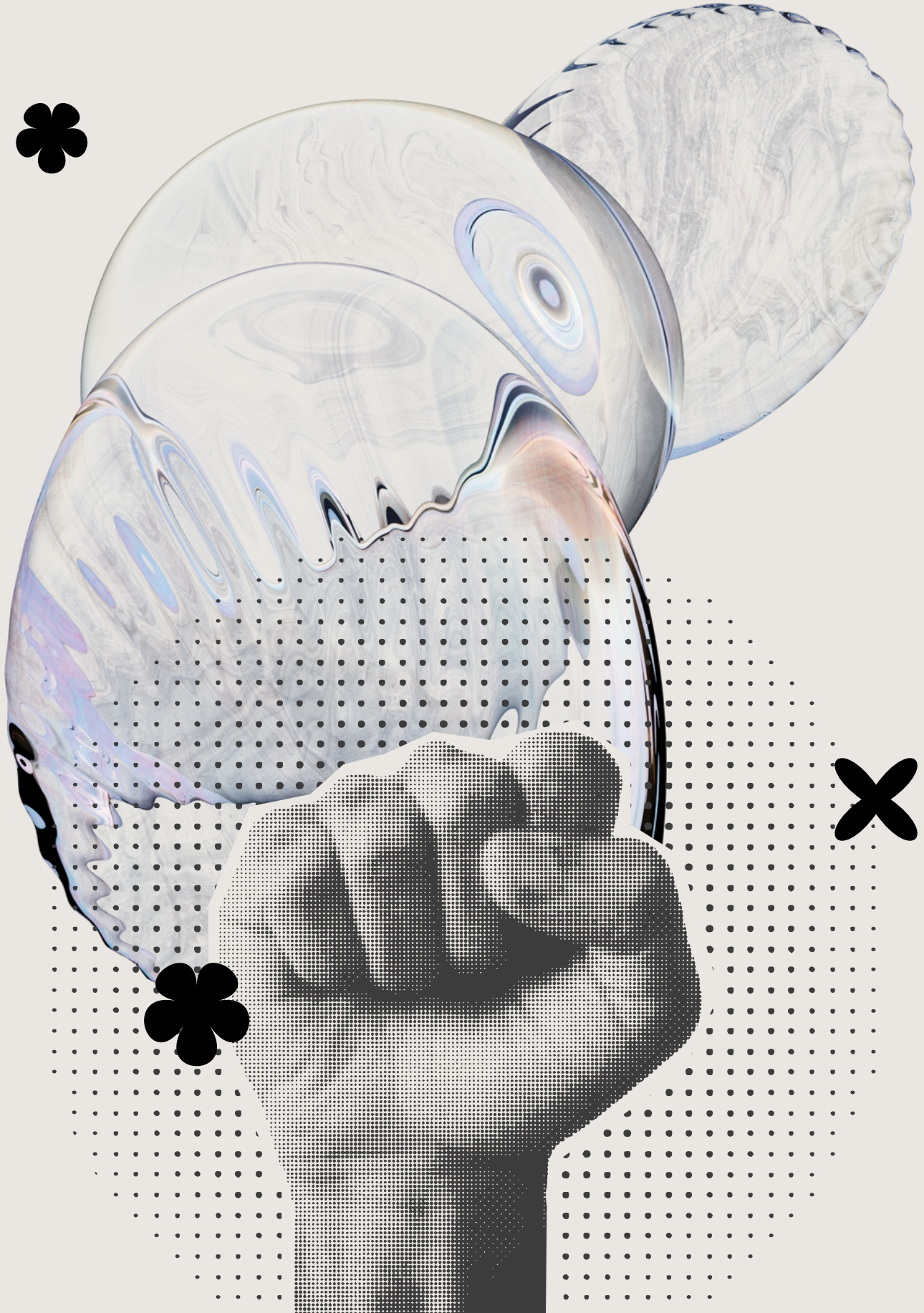


VOICE OF DEMOCRACY





Voice of Democracy is a youth project that teaches young people about democracy and how real governments work. The main problem targeted in this project is involvement of young people in democratic life and the consequences it could have in the near future.

The project has three parts:

1. Team Building - Games and activities to get to know each other.
2. Learning Democracy - Presentations, debates and imaginary organizations to share ideas on solving problems in our community.
3. Sharing Knowledge - Reflecting on what we learned and making a booklet to help others learn about democracy.

Young people from Romania, Serbia, and North Macedonia joined together in Bagaciu. They stayed in shared rooms and travelled by bus. The project is part of the Erasmus+ and helps youth activate and become responsible citizens.

Democracy is political system of government elected by people. First, democracy appeared in Ancient Greece. It was created from the latin word "demos", which means the people and the word "cratos", which means power.

The government makes all important decisions and has a very important role in such a system. In a democratic system, in addition to the government, we also have a president, who has a predominantly representative character. The people show their will in the elections, where they choose their representatives. It is of great importance that these elections are fair and free, because this is the only way to preserve peace in the country and protect the free will of the people.

Democracy is important because it promotes extremely important values, such as equality, human rights and freedom of speech. If some of these values are violated, it can lead to great dissatisfaction among the people and damage to state stability. That is why it is very important that everyone is equally involved in the political life of their country, because that is the only way to build a better future.



POLITICAL COMPASS

Political compass is a method that is used to better understand political beliefs

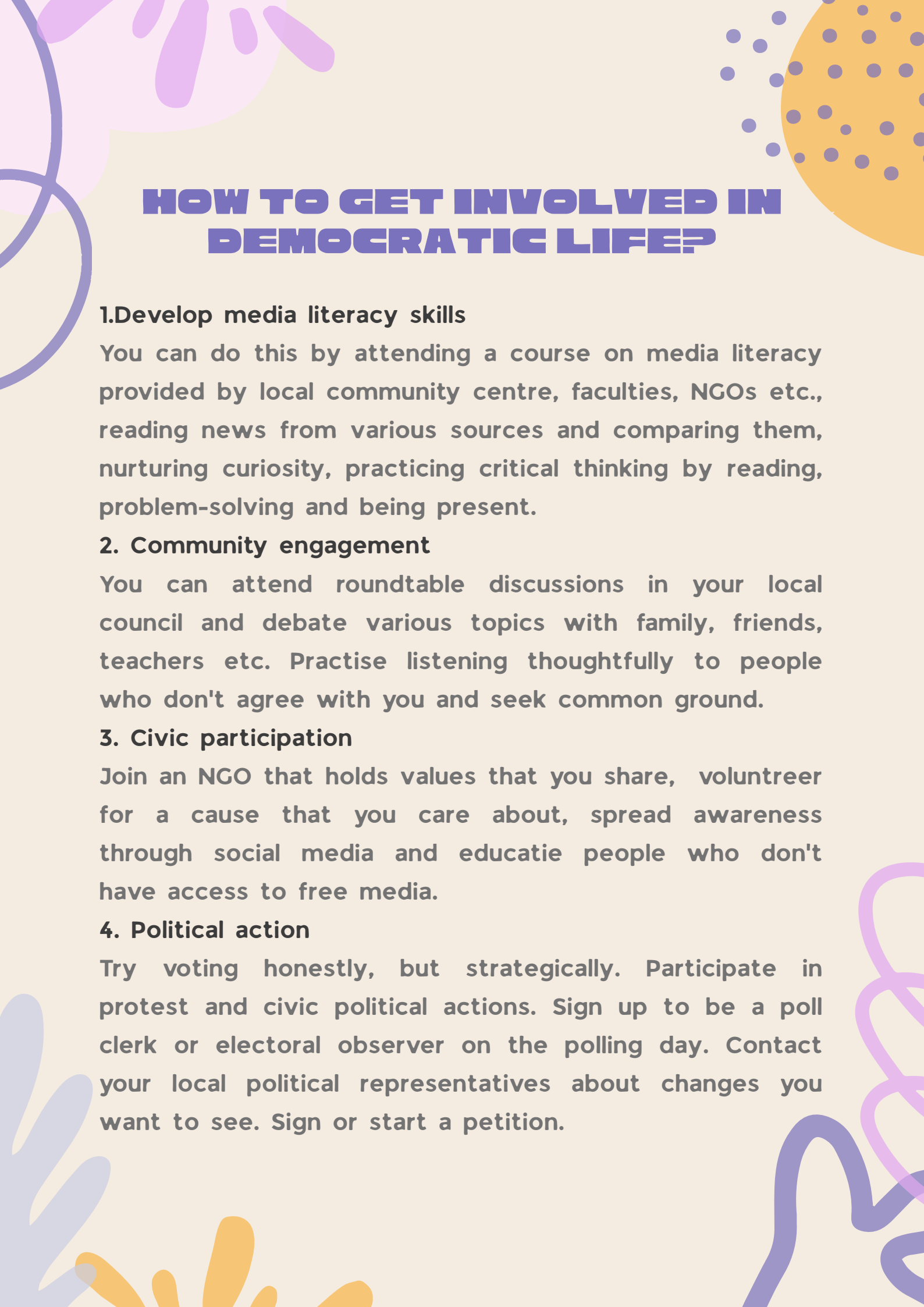
You have two axes the one from left right is the economic one and one from up to down is a social one.

Left supports redistribution of wealth social safety nets and public ownership, it favors government regulation to reduce inequality. For example socialism, communism and social democracy.

Right side supports free markets, privatization and lower taxes, favors minimal government interference in business. For example neoliberalism and libertarian capitalism.

Authoritarian top, favors strong central authority, law, order, tradition. It can support censorship, nationalism and surveillance. For example fascism, theocracy.

Libertarian emphasizes individual freedom, civil liberties and skepticism of power, opposes government control over personal life. For example anarchy and classical liberalism.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN DEMOCRATIC LIFE?

1. Develop media literacy skills

You can do this by attending a course on media literacy provided by local community centre, faculties, NGOs etc., reading news from various sources and comparing them, nurturing curiosity, practicing critical thinking by reading, problem-solving and being present.

2. Community engagement

You can attend roundtable discussions in your local council and debate various topics with family, friends, teachers etc. Practise listening thoughtfully to people who don't agree with you and seek common ground.

3. Civic participation

Join an NGO that holds values that you share, volunteer for a cause that you care about, spread awareness through social media and educate people who don't have access to free media.

4. Political action

Try voting honestly, but strategically. Participate in protest and civic political actions. Sign up to be a poll clerk or electoral observer on the polling day. Contact your local political representatives about changes you want to see. Sign or start a petition.

HOW TO RAISE AWARENESS ON YOUNGSTERS ABOUT POLITICS AND DEMOCRACY

To raise awareness on youngsters about politics and democracy, we can first use:

- NGO's to spread the information
- Design some advertisements to put on the street
- Reach out to schools and present projects about politics and democracy in classes, starting from 5th grade and beyond (subjects getting harder as they go up in grades).
- Another better idea would be using Word Of Mouth! It's one of the best communication "strategies" because people can get along so well and debate it right there on the spot!
- With that being said, what we could do to intrigue the youngsters, is that it would be so much better to make every presentation, every tentative more "cartoonish", more childlike, more captivating for the younger people so that we get their attention!

For example:

- Colourful, modern animation is usually a good idea for videos, also using colourful characters, using cartoony text, sneaking in some jokes. It would all get the attention of youngsters! Besides I'm sure a lot of them, not even knowing it, would have even the slightest bit of interest in politics and no one to teach them! I can say this from my past experience.

Overall, trying to integrate it wouldn't be that hard, as long as you know how to also include things that they like, and being open with them... could also be fun!

POLITICAL VISIONS FROM EACH COUNTRY

The Romanian perspective of Democracy:

For many Romanians, democracy is something hard-earned after years under communism. It brought freedom of speech, of movement, of choice. But over time, that excitement faded. Corruption, slow reforms, and political scandals made people skeptical. They vote, they hope, but often feel like real change comes too slowly. Still, democracy is valued better flawed freedom than silent obedience.

The perspective of politics in Romania:

When Romanians hear “politics,” most think of broken promises, corruption, and self-interest. It’s seen as a game where the people rarely win. Many are tired, some are angry, and trust is low. Still, they follow it because even if they don’t believe in politicians, they know politics shapes their everyday lives.

The perspective of Serbians of democracy:

Many Serbians see democracy as something they wanted, but not what they expected. They vote, they speak, but feel the same people stay in power, and corruption runs deep. It’s democracy by name, they say, but not always in practice. Still, they value the freedom it brings—just wish it worked better

The perspective of politics in Serbia:

When Serbians hear “politics,” many think of corruption, lies, and power games. They feel politicians serve themselves, not the people. There’s a lot of frustration, even cynicism. Some still care, but most have learned to expect little and trust even less. They now are protesting and trying to find a way to resolve things.

The perspective of Macedonia of democracy:

Democracy is like a long-awaited guest, they welcomed it with hope after years of being told what to do and how to live. They saw it as a chance to finally speak up, to choose their own path. But over time, they’ve grown wary. Too many promises came and went, and life didn’t always get easier. Still, they respect it. To them, democracy may be flawed, but it’s better than the silence and fear they remember from before.

The perspective of Macedonia about politics:

These days, when people in Macedonia hear the word “politics,” most just sigh or roll their eyes. It feels like the same old story, corruption, broken promises, and leaders who care more about power than the people. They talk big before elections, then disappear when it's time to deliver. Many feel like their voices don’t really matter, like things are decided long before any vote is cast. Some still hope for change, but most have learned to expect little and trust even less.

TESTIMONIALS

Ertan 18, Macedonia

Why did you join this project?
To make new friends, visit Romania and to learn more about democracy

How are you liking it here?
It's really fine I like it, I have learnt a lot of new things about the different cultures

What was the most interesting part for you?
The games and the team building

Aleksa 20, Serbia

Why did you join this exact project?
To meet a lot of new people who share the same interests about team building, and to hang out a little

How are you liking it here?
It's very nice and calming I love it

Will you go to other projects in the future?
Of course I will.

David 18, Romania

Why did you join this project?
Because it's my first project and I wanted to make some new friends from diddy countries

Are you enjoying your stay here?
I think it was a bit to long, but I love it here and love the people who are here with me.

Will you go to another erasmus?
Yes I will and I'd like to go to as many project as possible.

Radu 18, Romania

Why did you join this erasmus project?
Basically I joined cause I wanted to learn about democracy and meet other people.

Are you liking your stay here?
Yes I enjoy it very much

Will you join another project in future?
Of course!

Milica 21, Serbia

Why did you join this exact erasmus?
I really liked the theme of the project, also I liked the fact that many people from each country are coming

How do you like it here?
I like the accommodation, it's comfortable, the weather was a little too hot to handle, but enjoyable after all

Will you join any other projects?
I sure will, I had a lot of fun here and I want to repeat that in the near future.

Ruzhdi, 18, Macedonia

Why did you come in this project?
I wanted to learn new things about democracy, and seeing Romania.

What was the most interesting thing in the project?
The games were really fun and I really enjoyed team-building with people from Romania and Serbia.

Do you want to take part in other Erasmus+ projects?
Yes, I do. I want to see the world and get to know other cultures too.



**Co-funded by
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