

SALTO



erasmus+ and
european solidarity
corps agency

Participation in Democratic Life

04.04.2024

SALTO Participation & Information Resource Centre
Since 2018 hosted by the Estonian Agency for Erasmus+ and ESC



About SALTO PI



WHAT DO WE DO?

We support the **Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes** – particularly the network of National Agencies and the community of practice - in exploiting the unique potential of the **horizontal priority**

"Participation in democratic life, civic engagement and European values".



About SALTO PI

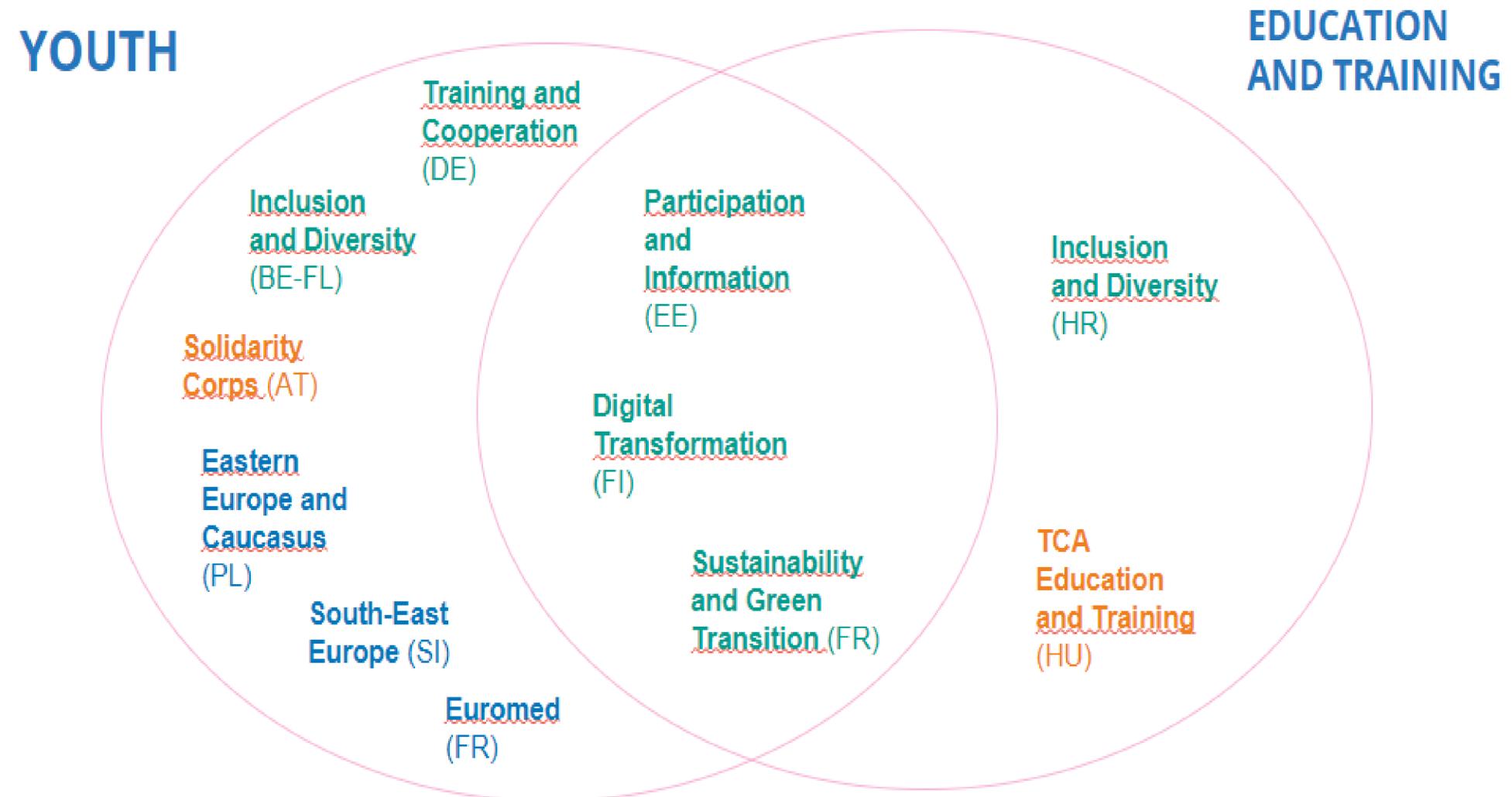
HOW DO WE DO IT?

- Producing **knowledge-based documents, research and resources** (as the [Youth Participation Strategy](#) and [Toolkit](#); annual mapping reports, etc);
- Showcasing **inspiring E+ and ESC projects** on Participation (through our [Flagship Projects Collection](#) and [SALTO Awards](#));
- Collecting and sharing **quality information, materials and tools** – including in our [Participation Resource Pool](#);
- Organising and supporting **training and thematic events** for NAs, beneficiaries and other stakeholders.



The SALTO network

We are one of 11 **SALTO Resource Centres** working to improve the quality and impact of the **Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps** programmes at a systemic level.



People of SALTO Participation & Information



Reet



Kelly



Kadri



Louis



Joana



Brigita



Katrin



Raili



WHAT IS PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC LIFE?



PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC LIFE



Participation in democratic life consists of diverse ways in which people individually and / or in groups **express** and **act** on their needs and opinions, and **how it impacts** policies, actions and/or other developments towards social change.



MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Meaningful participation goes beyond merely “taking part” in an activity or process, as might be understood in some languages. It entails the **right of people to have a say** in decisions that affect them, their communities and countries, and beyond.



INGREDIENTS FOR MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

For this right to be granted, people need to be given:

- **the means**
- **the space**
- **the opportunity**
- **and, where necessary, the support**

to **freely** express their views, **contribute** to and **influence** societal decision making on matters affecting them, and **be active** within the democratic and civic life of our communities.



Conditions for Youth Participation

1. young people need to take part in it,
2. be genuinely empowered to express their views and opinions about the questions being discussed
3. be given a real opportunity to have influence and some say over the outcome.



UNDERSTANDING PARTICIPATION

Participation is diverse



Participation can happen everywhere



Participation is about power



Participation requires information



Participation is a process



HOW TO DO THAT IN ERASMUS+?

- Project topic
- Project activities
- Project design
- Project implementation
- Developing a participatory culture in your organisation before/after



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Module 2: **What is youth participation?**

This module provides an introduction to the main concepts of participation that have been developed as part of the SALTO PI Participation Strategy.

Module 3: **Promoting participation for all.**

This module develops ideas about how participation can be accessible, inclusive and sensitive to the diversity of young people.

Module 4: **Learning by doing.**

This module discusses learning by doing as a basis for young people to develop participation competence.

Module 5: **Young people leading projects.**

This module develops ideas about how young people can lead within projects, thereby gaining meaningful participation experiences.

Module 6: **Creating change with projects.**

This module reflects on change. How do participation projects contribute to positive change in society? How can change projects improve the participation experience of young people?

Module 7: **Mobility projects for young people.**

This module looks specifically at how to implement a participation dimension in Key Action 1 mobility projects, namely youth exchanges.

Module 8: **Youth participation activities.**

This module outlines what it takes to make a Key Action 1 participation project meaningful for participating young people.

Module 9: **Discover EU.**

This module reflects on how to enhance the Discover EU programme and the opportunities it offers young people to travel and experience Europe with participation experiences.

Module 10: **Solidarity Projects.**

This module considers the link between participation and solidarity and how to integrate a participation dimension into Solidarity Projects.

Module 11: **Volunteering.**

This module presents ideas about how to develop a participation dimension in European Solidarity Corps volunteering activities.

Module 12: **Planning for participation.**

This module suggests some practical tools for planning the integration of participation into projects.

Welcome youth participation enthusiasts!



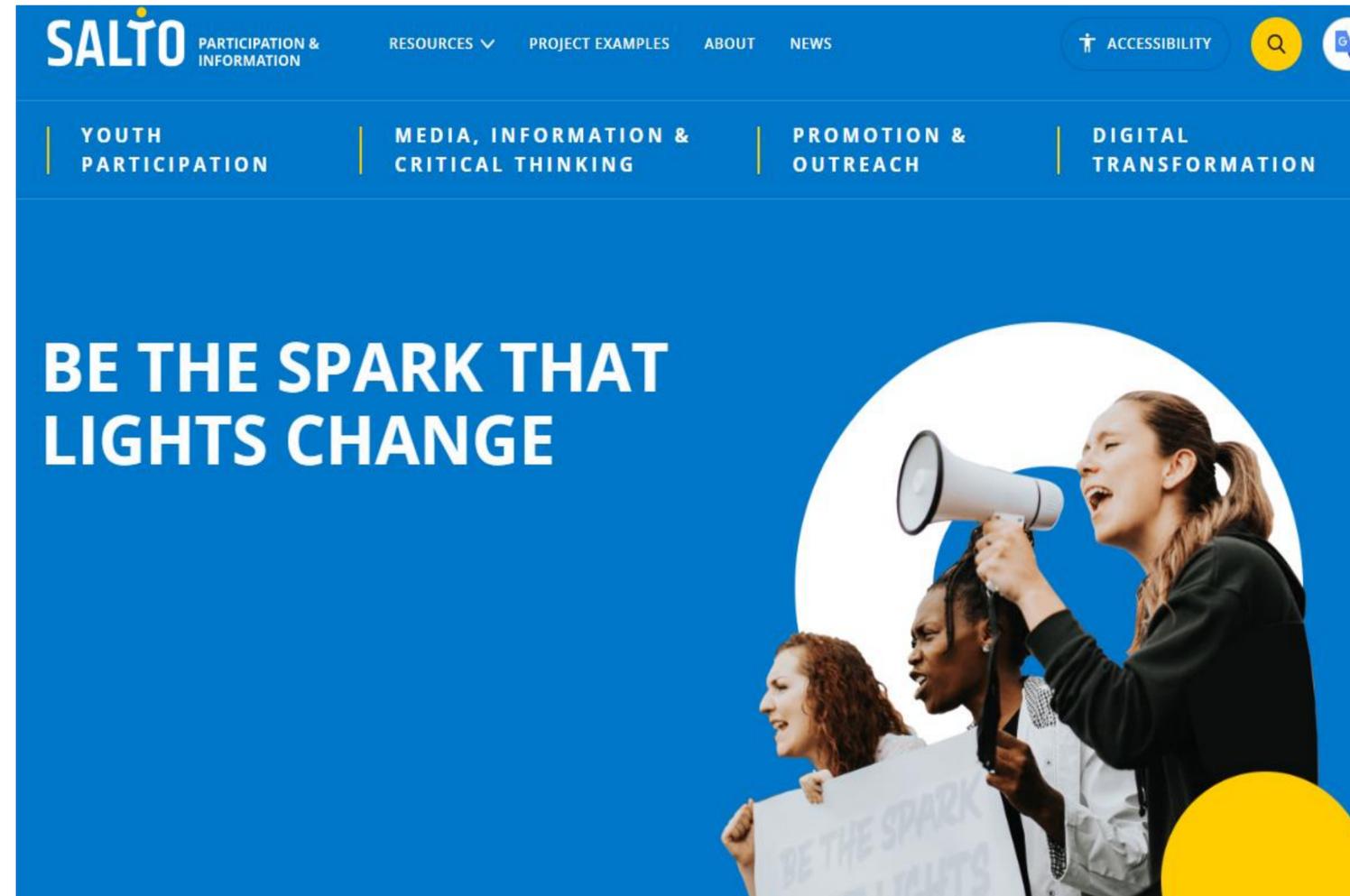
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ENHANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE?

ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THE PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT THE EUROPEAN UNION'S YOUTH PROGRAMMES OFFER?

ARE YOU WONDERING WHERE AND HOW TO BEGIN?

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

- Tools and methods
- Articles
- Reports and mappings
- Inspiring projects
- Training and thematic events



Available on PARTICIPATION RESOURCE POOL (participationpool.eu)
And our social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, @saltoparticipation on Instagram)



HOW CAN YOU HELP US?



SALTO
PARTICIPATION &
INFORMATION

Have Your Say!

Participation Resource Pool's User Survey

OPEN UNTIL 30 APRIL 2024



[Help us improve the Participation Resource Pool and make it suitable for all!](#)



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Thank you!

The SALTO PI team
Joana.freitas@harno.ee

