


### ENGAGE Project Database of Best practices collected at EU level

**Purpose:** To offer a gallery of best practices examples to be used as examples and motivations for the youth leaders in their activities when raising young people’s awareness of UE values and motivating them to get engaged in democratic life.

Title of the initiative	Leading by Doing: Digital Transformation for Civic Engagement
Representative image of the initiative	
Website/Social Media account of the initiative	<b>Official Website:</b> <a href="https://participationpool.eu/project/leading-by-doing-digital-transformation-for-civic-engagement/">https://participationpool.eu/project/leading-by-doing-digital-transformation-for-civic-engagement/</a>
Country of implementation	Estonia, with participation from Latvia, Luxembourg, Romania, and Turkey
Representative organisation/ individuals	Citizen OS Foundation

Field of action	<table border="1" data-bbox="505 289 1377 737"> <tr> <td>EU values &amp; human rights</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Citizenship</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cultural identity</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Digital citizenship</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diversity and inclusion</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Gender, social, economic and health</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social justice</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Leadership &amp; mentorship</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Democratic life</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Other</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Climate change, sustainability</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If other, please specify .....</p>	EU values & human rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural identity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Digital citizenship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diversity and inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender, social, economic and health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leadership & mentorship	<input type="checkbox"/>	Democratic life	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	Climate change, sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>		
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Type of action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● International youth exchange</li> <li>● Civic tech training</li> <li>● Workshops</li> </ul>																								
Target group	Young individuals interested in democracy and technology, including members of youth organizations and civic initiatives from Estonia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Romania, and Turkey																								
Main partners or stakeholders	<p><b>Partner Organizations:</b> YO Dagne (Latvia); Coconut Luxembourg (Luxembourg); GEYC (Romania); Afsarder (Turkey)</p> <p><b>Funding:</b> Erasmus+ Programme (EU Youth Exchanges)</p>																								
Short description of the initiatives	<p>"Leading by Doing" was a youth exchange program held in Tallinn, Estonia, in August 2021, bringing together 22 young participants from five countries to explore the intersection of digital transformation and civic engagement. Participants formed a fictional youth organization, "Global Young Heroes," to collaboratively design and implement civic projects addressing real-world issues, utilizing digital tools and participatory leadership methods. The initiative aimed to empower youth with the skills and knowledge to lead democratic processes in a digital era.</p>																								

<p>Activities and methods implemented</p>	<p>The initiative employed a hands-on, experiential learning approach:</p> <p><b>Formation of a Fictional Organization:</b> Participants created "Global Young Heroes," establishing its values, leadership structure, and operational methods.</p> <p>SALTO</p> <p><b>Project Development:</b> Teams identified societal issues such as fake news, environmental challenges, and youth-police relations, developing projects to address these concerns.</p> <p><b>Digital Tool Utilization:</b> Participants analyzed and employed various digital platforms (e.g., Citizen OS, OpenPetition, Change.org) to design and promote their civic initiatives.</p> <p><b>Participatory Leadership Training:</b> Workshops focused on collaborative decision-making, consensus-building, and the dynamics of leaderless teams to foster inclusive leadership skills.</p> <p><b>Community Engagement:</b> Projects were published on the Citizen OS platform, inviting public feedback and fostering real-world engagement.</p> <p><b>Cultural Exchange and Networking:</b> Activities included cultural nights and a treasure hunt in Tallinn, promoting intercultural understanding and team cohesion.</p>
<p>Key Success Factors</p>	<p>The success of the initiative can be attributed to several key factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Experiential Learning:</b> By simulating a real organization, participants gained practical experience in project development and leadership.</li> <li>● <b>Digital Literacy Enhancement:</b> Exposure to various civic tech platforms equipped participants with the skills to leverage digital tools for civic engagement.</li> <li>● <b>Inclusive Participation:</b> The diverse backgrounds of participants enriched discussions and fostered a comprehensive understanding of civic issues across different contexts.</li> <li>● <b>Collaborative Leadership Models:</b> Emphasis on participatory leadership encouraged shared responsibility and collective decision-making.</li> <li>● <b>Sustained Engagement:</b> Post-exchange activities, including online meetings and continuous communication, ensured the longevity of the initiative's impact.</li> </ul>

