



Valuing Opportunities for Inclusive Civic Engagement in Europe

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Report - "*EU Citizenship*" Seminar

The "EU Citizenship" Seminar marked the first project activity of the VOICE-EU initiative and took place on March 15 and 22, 2025, at the new "Pietro Nenni" Council Hall in the Municipality of Ciampino. The event aimed to raise citizens' awareness of the importance of national and European institutions, highlighting their direct impact on everyday life and promoting active and informed participation. The activity attracted a diverse audience composed of citizens of different ages, professions, and backgrounds, thus creating an inclusive setting rich in varied perspectives.

Through a series of informative and interactive sessions, participants had the opportunity to explore key topics related to European citizenship, gaining deeper insights into the institutions and decision-making processes that govern the European Union and their effects on citizens. The structure of the seminar supported the integration of theoretical training with practical activities and discussions, actively engaging participants in a dynamic learning process.

The event was carried out in coordination with partner countries, each of which organized similar activities in their respective local venues. In this way, the seminar not only provided an opportunity for individual and collective growth for the participants, but also represented an important step toward building a network of more aware, engaged European citizens ready to contribute to the future of the European Union.

March 15, 2025 – EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The opening day of the seminar began with the welcome and registration of participants, followed by a Zoom connection with the project's international partners. This initial moment offered an opportunity for a brief greeting among the various stakeholders involved and for the introduction of the initiative's overarching goals. The day's agenda was also presented, providing an overview of the training path and the topics that would be addressed throughout the morning.

One of the most defining elements of this first day was the methodological approach, which was strongly rooted in interactivity and non-formal education. The use of innovative tools, such as Mentimeter, added significant value. Through digital quizzes and real-time polls, participants were able to test their knowledge and collectively reflect on the role of national and European institutions, exploring their functions, decision-making dynamics, and their influence on citizens' daily lives. Gamification proved particularly effective in creating an engaging and stimulating learning environment. The audience's enthusiastic participation in interactive activities helped generate a dynamic atmosphere, where dialogue among participants unfolded naturally and constructively.

The informal nature of the seminar, supported by the use of digital technologies, also made even the more complex content — such as the structure and functioning of European institutions — more accessible and engaging. Participants responded with enthusiasm to the proposed activities and had the chance to interact with one another, fostering a climate of shared learning. The playful tone and friendly competition contributed to making concepts often perceived as difficult, like the structure and role of European institutions, more approachable and interesting. In the feedback collected, many participants highlighted how the use of innovative technologies helped facilitate understanding and sparked curiosity about the topics covered.

During the morning session, an expert trainer — an experienced EU project designer with a solid background in the history of contemporary Europe — provided further insight into the topics discussed. Her presentation clearly and passionately explained the functioning of key European institutions — the Parliament, the Commission, and the Council of the European Union — and examined how decisions made at the supranational level translate into tangible impacts at the local level and in citizens' everyday lives.

Particular attention was given to citizens' rights, EU policies in the social and economic fields, and legislation designed to address major global challenges, from sustainability to security. A central element of this session was the open debate that followed the presentation. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, share personal experiences, and reflect collectively on the meaning of European citizenship. This direct exchange enriched the seminar's content and reinforced the sense of democratic participation — a core value of the entire project.

To conclude the activities, participants were provided with a multimedia file containing a collection of useful links to explore the topics further, with a particular focus on opportunities offered by the European Union in terms of education, mobility, rights, and civic engagement. This resource served as an additional incentive for participants to independently explore and better understand the tools and opportunities available through the EU.



VOICE - EU

PER SAPERNE DI PIU'

Il sito Europa, un vero e proprio portale d'accesso all'UE a portata di click
https://european-union.europa.eu/index_it

Il centro di informazione Europe Direct più vicino a voi
https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/meet-us_it

Your Europe: Domande sui tuoi diritti o doveri nell'UE
https://europa.eu/youreurope/index_it.htm

Cosa fa per me l'Europa
<https://what-europe-does-for-me.europa.eu/it/social/1.15?area=1>

Kohesio: scopri i progetti dell'UE nella tua regione
<https://kohesio.ec.europa.eu/it/>



OPPORTUNITA'

Informazioni su scambi, borse di studio, attività di volontariato, tirocini, posti di lavoro, visite presso le istituzioni dell'UE e molte altre opportunità per i giovani

https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/work-and-study_it

EPSO eu careers: concorsi pubblici per funzionari UE
<https://eu-careers.europa.eu/it/job-opportunities/traineeships>

PER IMPARARE DI PIU'

Learning corner UE
https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/index_it

Cronologia dell'UE
https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/eu-timeline_it#/dashboard

Pionieri dell'UE
https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/history-eu/eu-pioneers_it

PER PARTECIPARE DI PIU'

Partecipare, interagire e votare nell'Unione europea
https://european-union.europa.eu/live-work-study/participate-interact-vote_it

Iniziativa dei cittadini europei: chiedere alla Commissione europea di proporre nuovi atti legislativi
<https://citizens-initiative.europa.eu/it>

Have your say: partecipare alle consultazioni online per contribuire al processo legislativo
https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say_it

Have your say: simplify it! Per suggerire come semplificare e modernizzare le leggi esistenti
https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say-simplify_it

Dialogo dell'UE con i giovani: partecipare al dibattito sull'UE Per dire la vostra su quanto sta accadendo nell'UE potete partecipare ai numerosi dibattiti che si svolgono sia in presenza sia online in tutta l'UE
https://youth.europa.eu/eu-youth-dialogue_it

Portale delle petizioni: esercitare il diritto di petizione
<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/it/home>

March 22, 2025 – BENEFITS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The second seminar session, held on March 22, was dedicated to an in-depth exploration of the benefits, challenges, and opportunities offered by the European Union. The day began with a brief introduction, in continuity with the previous session, including a Zoom connection with the project's international partners. This was followed by a rich lineup of contributions from experts and institutional representatives from various fields. The program provided a comprehensive and multidisciplinary overview of the EU's influence in key sectors of contemporary society.

The first presentation was delivered by **Ioannis Tsilogiannis**, Project Manager at EUROSTAT, who outlined the rights of European citizens, focusing on fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Union, such as freedom of movement, the right to study and work in other member states, and active participation in European elections. Special emphasis was placed on combating disinformation and strengthening democratic resilience—highly relevant issues in the European context, especially in view of the upcoming continental elections.

Next, **Mirko Laurenti** from *Legambiente* led a session focused on the EU's environmental policies. He offered an overview of the European Green Deal and the measures being implemented to address the climate crisis. Key topics included energy transition, emissions reduction, and the role of the circular economy. His presentation sparked a lively debate among participants, who showed strong interest in the EU's role in promoting sustainable and inclusive development.

Following this, **Marco Frisari**, Head of Planning and Development at the *Center for Autonomy*, delved into European policies on migration and security, with particular attention to the management of migratory flows and the EU's asylum and international protection system. His insights highlighted the delicate balance between safeguarding human rights and controlling borders, offering valuable reflections on the impact of EU decisions at both national and local levels.

After a coffee break, the focus shifted to **sports and social inclusion** with a presentation by **Fabio Caiazzo**, Board Member at *Sport e Salute*. Dr. Caiazzo discussed EU funding programs for sports and emphasized the value of sport as a tool for social cohesion. He addressed issues related to gender equality, minority integration, and the promotion of sports among people with disabilities.

A particularly meaningful moment came with the special intervention of **Beatrice Covassi**, Member of the European Parliament and former Head of the European Commission Representation in Italy. Offering a direct institutional perspective, Covassi underscored the importance of active citizenship and youth participation in the democratic life of the Union. She also highlighted key EU programs for young people, such as *Erasmus+* and *DiscoverEU*, which serve as concrete tools to promote mobility, education, and a sense of European belonging among younger generations. Her inspiring talk left a strong impression, offering thoughtful insights on the EU's role in shaping a shared future.

To conclude the morning, participants were invited to share their opinions during a collective feedback session. The evaluations confirmed the success of the adopted approach: informative, interactive, and dialogue-oriented. The wide range of topics covered, along with the high quality of the contributions, helped increase awareness of how European institutions function and the real opportunities made possible through active engagement in the Union's civic life.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

At the end of both seminar days, participants were invited to complete a short satisfaction survey aimed at gathering immediate impressions of the training experience and assessing the level of learning achieved through the activities. The responses were overwhelmingly positive: participants expressed general appreciation for the organization, the quality of the content, and the methodological approach used. In particular, many reported having gained greater awareness of the topics discussed, especially regarding the functioning of European institutions and the opportunities the European Union offers its citizens.

The two-day seminar produced significant results both in terms of individual learning and collective impact. Thanks to its innovative format and high-quality content, the experience proved to be highly educational, inclusive, and engaging. The main outcomes can be summarized as follows:

1. GREATER AWARENESS OF EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND CITIZENS' RIGHTS

Participants gained a clearer and deeper understanding of how European institutions function, their roles, and their interaction with national policies. Particular emphasis was placed on the fundamental rights guaranteed by the EU—such as freedom of movement, study, and work—as well as the importance of democratic participation, especially in light of the upcoming European elections. Feedback collected during the sessions confirmed that many participants developed a renewed sense of active citizenship and European belonging.

2. HIGH LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

The use of participatory methods, including interactive digital tools (e.g., Mentimeter) and direct engagement with speakers and experts, fostered strong involvement and a high level of attention and motivation. The informal and dynamic atmosphere of the sessions captured the interest of even the less experienced participants, making the content accessible and engaging for all.

3. MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH AND SYSTEMIC VISION OF THE EU

The topics covered ranged from environmental and sustainability policies to the role of sport in social inclusion, as well as issues of migration and security. This thematic diversity allowed participants to explore the complexity of the European project in all its dimensions, offering a comprehensive and cross-cutting view of the EU as a political, social, and cultural actor.

4. QUALIFIED CONTRIBUTIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL INSPIRATION

Guest speakers and contributors added authority and depth to the seminar. In particular, the intervention of Beatrice Covassi, Member of the European Parliament and a key figure in promoting dialogue between citizens and EU institutions, was especially inspiring. Her message highlighted the value of civic engagement and youth mobility as tools for building a conscious and proactive European citizenship.

5. STRENGTHENED PEER DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE

Open discussions and debates throughout the sessions fostered an environment of active listening and constructive exchange. Participants were encouraged not only to ask questions but also to share personal insights and engage with others on current issues, contributing to a collective learning process based on peer-to-peer dialogue.

6. POSITIVE EDUCATIONAL AND MOTIVATIONAL IMPACT

The seminar served as a catalyst for interest in European affairs, providing practical tools for further exploration, orientation, and active participation in EU dynamics. The informal, interactive, and experience-oriented approach enhanced learning effectiveness, sparking lasting motivation among participants—especially younger ones.

CONCLUSIONS

The seminar fully achieved its main objective: to raise citizens' awareness of the importance of the European Union and its policies, promoting active reflection on the rights, duties, and opportunities arising from European citizenship. Thanks to an innovative teaching approach, which combined interactive tools, expert contributions, and moments of direct exchange, the initiative successfully engaged a diverse audience, stimulating interest and participation.

The use of participatory methodologies – such as the incorporation of digital platforms for gamification, high-profile testimonies, and the openness to debate – made the experience not only informative but also educational, transforming complex content into accessible and shared knowledge. Feedback collected at the end of the sessions confirmed a high level of satisfaction from participants, who appreciated the quality of the proposed content, the effectiveness of the communication, and the inclusive atmosphere created throughout the event.

A key point that emerged strongly was the request for continuity and further in-depth exploration. Many participants expressed a desire to continue the journey, delving into specific topics in greater detail, particularly those related to European governance, the impact of EU policies on daily life, and concrete opportunities for active participation at both the local and European levels.

The event was not just a training moment but also a true platform for active citizenship, fostering dialogue between institutions and citizens and contributing to strengthening the principles of democracy, transparency, and participation. In this sense, the seminar also served as a form of promotion for a more inclusive, aware, and citizen-centered Europe.

The overall outcome is highly positive: the combination of valuable content and dynamic delivery methods created an accessible, engaging, and useful experience, capable of sparking lasting learning processes and encouraging new questions, connections, and – hopefully – new forms of civic engagement. The foundations laid during these days represent a starting point for future initiatives aimed at nurturing a shared, open, and participatory European culture.