REPORTS

FOLLOW-UP - LOCAL EDUCATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS
LTTA I

Active political participation, engagement in democratic processes

Tittle:

Reports Follow up - 3 days local educational training workshops LTTA 1 (Active political participation, engagement in democratic processes)

Project:

Critical thinking and participation as a foundation of democracy in Europe, funded by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive (EACEA) within the Erasmus+ programme.

Partners:

Youth Power Germany e.V. (Germany)
Carousel 8 (Croatia)
Youth Power / Snaga Mladih (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
NVO „Glas" (Montenegro)

Local community 3 days event:

Podgorica (ME), 25th to 27th May 2022
Zagreb (HR), 07th to 09th May 2022
Berlin (DE), 11th to 13th May 2022
Mostar (BA), 16th to 18th May 2022

Co-funded by
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YOUTH POWER Germany

NVO Glas

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REPORTS

Follow-up (three days last) workshops (training) in the local community

LTTA 1 "Active political participation, engagement in democratic processes"

Podgorica (ME), 25th to 27th May 2022

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Follow-up workshop

LTTA 1 "Active political participation, engagement in democratic processes"

Podgorica – Montenegro

25th to 27th May 2022

DAY 1
Activity: Politics as a tool for achieving the goals of young people in project partner countries
Format: Presentation + team work activity
Duration: 120 min
Number of participants: 20

Goals:
➔ To implement a short presentation that aims to teach participants about basic notions about politics, statistics of youth participation in political processes in project partner countries, and the importance of youth participation in political processes.
➔ To implement a teamwork activity that aims to develop research and presentation skills of participants by internet research on political history through the eras and presentation of the results.

The activity objectives are:
▪ To raise awareness of the realistic situation about youth participation in political processes in project partner countries.
▪ To raise awareness of importance and all forms of political participation of all society members
▪ To get familiar with the concept of politics.
▪ To improve team working, research and presentation skills.

Introductions:

On the first day of the training, the participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, and Montenegro were presented with the concept of politics, the various forms of political participation, and the results of the research conducted by the partner NGO. The research aimed to gain insight into the realistic situation of youth participation in politics, the barriers faced by young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, and Montenegro, as well as their attitudes towards violence and democracy.After the theoretical part, the participants were divided into four groups and worked collaboratively to research the different forms of political activity throughout history. They presented their findings, allowing all participants to learn about various interesting historical facts related to political activity during ancient times (Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, Greece, Rome), the post-classical era (Maya tribe in America, Mongol Empire, Byzantine Empire, Ottoman Empire), early modern era (European colonization in America, Asia, Europe), and modern era (revolutions, great power competition, world wars, cold war, post-cold war era).

DAY 2

Activity: Parliamentary democracy - role of parliament and parties, ideological profiling of parties, forming party coalitions

Format: Presentation + team work activity

Duration: 120 min

Number of participants: 20

Goals:

➔ To introduce participants to the concept of the state and its various forms, as well as democracy, parliamentary democracy, parliament, political parties, coalitions, and non-governmental organizations, a short presentation will be conducted.

➔ To encourage critical thinking and freedom of thought, as well as develop decision-making, negotiation, and presentation skills among participants, a teamwork activity will be implemented. This will involve creating teams or "parties" based on ideologies and potential coalitions.

The activity objectives are:

▪ To get familiar with the concept of the state and its forms, the concept of democracy, parliamentary democracy, parliament, political parties, coalitions and non-governmental organizations.

▪ To encourage critical thinking and freedom of thought

▪ To develop decision making, negotiation and presentation skills.

▪ To encourage creativity.

Introduction:

The day progressed with short presentations to inform the participants about the concept of the state and its various forms, democracy, parliamentary democracy, parliament, political parties, coalitions, and non-governmental organizations. The participants were able to become familiar with these terms, their forms, methods of work, and implementation. Next, the participants were divided into three groups to work collaboratively. They created their own "political parties" and "non-governmental organizations" and assessed whether or not they would establish and join a coalition, regardless of whether it was a pre-election

or post-election coalition. This exercise allowed them to develop their skills in decision-making and negotiation, while also gaining a deeper understanding of the political process.

Those has lead to creation of NGOs and parties, after that participants presented logos, target groups, programs, platforms, ideologies and attitudes of created parties and organisations.

Activity: Parties and voters - voter motivation and political culture
Format: Presentation + team work activity
Duration: 120 min
Number of participants: 20
Goals:
  ➔ A short presentation will be implemented to introduce participants to the concept and various forms of electoral systems, as well as the concepts of voters and abstainers. Additionally, the presentation will cover ways to motivate abstainers to participate in the electoral process.
  ➔ A teamwork activity will also be implemented to develop participants' strategy, writing, emotional, and presentation skills. The activity will involve creating strategies to animate voters and drafting invitation/motivational letters to encourage participation in the electoral process. This exercise will provide participants with valuable skills and knowledge on how to effectively engage with voters and increase participation in the democratic process.

The activity objectives are:
  ▪ To get familiar by the concept and forms of the electoral systems, the concept of voters, the concept of abstainers and ways for their motivation
  ▪ To develop strategy, writing, emotional and presentation skills.

Introductions:
On the second day of the training, the participants were informed about the concept and various forms of electoral systems, as well as the concepts of voters and abstainers, and ways to motivate abstainers to participate in the electoral process.Following this, the participants continued working in their "parties" and "organizations" that were created on the first day of the workshop. They developed strategies for animating voters/members and wrote invitation/motivational letters to encourage participation. These strategies and letters were then presented, allowing participants to further develop their skills in strategy development, writing, and presentation.

DAY 3

Activity: Political parties - communication and public relations
Format: Presentation + team work activity
Duration: 120 min
Number of participants: 20
Goals:
➔ To implement a short presentation that aims to introduce the concept of communication, public relations and their most common forms.
➔ To implement a teamwork activity that aims to develop creativity, writing, communication and presentation skills through creation of press/public release, media conference and interview in the framework of created political parties and organizations.

The activity objectives are:
▪ To get familiar with the concept and forms of communication, public relations and their most common forms.
▪ To develop creativity, writing, communication and presentation.

Introduction:
On the second day of the training, the participants received a brief presentation on communication, public relations, and their common forms. Afterward, they were given the opportunity to apply their newly acquired knowledge by writing a press/public release about the training course that was implemented by one of the groups which was created the previous day.

Furthermore, another group organized a media conference on "Religious education as part of the educational system." Other groups conducted interviews to present their party's ideology and program. These activities allowed the participants to practice their communication and public relations skills in real-life situations.

Activity: Political communication and theoretical foundations of rhetoric
Format: Presentation + teamwork activity
Duration: 240 min
Number of participants: 20
Goals:

➜ To implement a short presentation that aims to introduce to the theoretical foundations of rhetoric, the term "argument", the rules of persuasion, adherence to the basic principles of rhetoric in speeches, as well as the ultimate goals of the speech.

➜ To implement a teamwork activity that aims to develop speaking and adaptation skills through preparing speeches for simulation of the pre-election campaign rallies including personal experience on adopting in an unknown area, where prepared templates cannot help at all.

➜ To provide conditions for the expression of every participant through writing and presenting motivational speeches about the importance of youth participation in political processes.

The activity objectives are:

▪ To get familiar with the theoretical foundations of rhetoric, the term "argument", the rules of persuasion, adherence to the basic principles of rhetoric in speeches, as well as the ultimate goals of the speech .

▪ To develop speaking and adaptation skills.

▪ To motivate youth to be ambassadors of youth engaging in political processes.

Introduction:

On the last day of the training, the participants were informed about the theoretical foundations of rhetoric, including the term "argument," the rules of persuasion, and the basic principles of rhetoric in speeches. They also learned about the ultimate goals of speech.

After the theoretical part, the volunteers were assigned a task to prepare speeches for a simulation of pre-election campaign rallies in the undeveloped municipality of each partner country. One volunteer represented the local government, while the others represented the previously created "opposition" parties.

The remaining participants were tasked with reacting differently to each volunteer's public performance, which aimed to help speakers learn how to react when they find themselves in an unknown area where prepared templates may not be useful.

Evaluation:

According to participants' answers from evaluation form, attending this 3 day long workshops participants:
- have improved their knowledge,
- have acquired the skills of rhetoric
- have met new friends
- have been awarded about political and media literacy
- have been free to express their creativity and thoughts
- have got new experiences etc.

Report – Follow-up workshops in the local community – LTTA 1 "Active political participation, engagement in democratic processes"

Zagreb, Croatia

Day 1

Session: Getting to know each other
Duration: 30 min
Number of participants: 20

Objectives:
- to get to know each other better to function as a group in the next three days
- to get comfortable and open with the group

Step by step:
1. Welcoming
Facilitators greeted everybody and introduced themselves. They briefly presented the project CritiDe and why we are here.

2. Name game with a ball
All participants and facilitators stand in a circle. Go around the circle and have each person introduce him/herself. After everyone has stated his/her name, call someone's name and toss the ball to that person. The recipient must then call someone else's name and throw the ball to that person. Repeat until everyone in the circle has been tossed the ball. Participants must remember to whom they have thrown the ball, as they will go in the same order as the first time. Repeat a few times, giving instructions to go faster and faster without dropping the ball.

3. Presentation of the programme
Facilitators present the programme for the three days and topics that will be covered.

4. Expectations
Participants go in a circle and share what is their motivation to participate in these workshops and what they expect from it.

Session: What is politics?
Duration: 90 min
Number of participants: 20

Objectives:
- To define politics and its significance in society
- To explore the different aspects and components of politics
- To examine the evolution of political systems throughout history.

Step by step:

1. Associations with the term "politics"

Participants are divided into 4 groups, five people in each group; they stand in a line, one behind the other. A few meters away are flipcharts put on the wall. Each group has one marker; they have 60 seconds to write as many associations on the term "politics". The facilitator gives a sign when to start and tracks the time. One group member can run to the poster when the previous one returns and goes to the back of the line. The group that has the most associations on their flipchart is the winner.

2. Definition of the term "politics"

Each group needs to discuss what associations on the flipchart are their attitudes towards politics and what can be used to define "politics". Each group writes their definitions of the term "politics", and they present it to the whole group.

Facilitators give short input about the term "politics" and the difference between politics – policy – polity.

3. Components of Politics

Small group activity: Divide participants into groups and assign each group a different component of politics (e.g., governance, elections, advocacy). Each group discusses their given component, identifies its importance, and prepares a brief presentation. Group presentations followed by open discussion and clarification of concepts.

4. Timeline – evolution of political systems through history

Participants are divided into six groups. Each group receives one event from history and needs to make infographics for the timeline that present that event and its historical importance:
- Athens (5 century BC)
- Medial feudalism
- Magna Charta Libertatum
- French Revolution
- American Revolution
- Socialism and Communism in the 20th century

Participants research and explore each event and present one by one to the whole group, putting infographics on the timeline on the wall.

Discussion:
- How are all these relevant for the 20th-century democracy we live in?
- What is the difference between Athens's democracy, medical feudalism, parliamentary monarchy and the 20th-century democracy we live in?

Day 2

Session: What is democracy?
Duration: 60 min
Number of participants: 20

Objectives:
- To discuss and define a definition of democracy based on the inputs from participants

Step by step:

1. My personal meaning of democracy – individual work

At the beginning of the session, the facilitator asks each participant to take a piece of A4 paper and write or draw what democracy represents to them. Participants are given 15 minutes the work on their own, after which each individual keeps their piece of the paper for themselves. Participants are encouraged to use any way of expressing themselves and the thoughts that they feel the most comfortable with.

2. Defining democracy – group work

Participants are now divided into five different groups. Each group received a task to discuss, within the group, the question "What is democracy for me?" based on the individual works all participants had previously developed. Each participant got some time to present their individual work inside the small groups with the final goal of creating a common definition. Groups also need to decide on members who will be in charge of taking notes about the discussion and the outcomes of the discussion. Each group presents the outcome of their discussion to the whole group.

Facilitators give a definition of democracy and discuss with the groups how their definition is similar/different from the dictionary version of the definition.

Session: What is Political Socialisation?
Duration: 60 min
Number of participants: 20

Objectives:
- To understand and define the term political socialisation
- To explore seven different agents of political socialisation and their influence on (young) people in daily life

Step by step:
1. Introduction to the topic – theoretical inputs

Facilitators give the participants theoretical inputs about the term and topic of today's session. During the introduction, participants are encouraged to actively participate in the discussions, share their opinions, comment on the several sentences shared by the trainer and share their personal experiences and realities from their local communities. The concept of political socialisation is essential to know how political culture is formed in different societies and how people's political values, beliefs, and attitudes prevail over different generations. Those values or beliefs expand to the new generation through some agents of political socialisation. With the death of various group members, the group's political culture does not die. The new members of the group maintain their political culture. From their childhood, they learned, embraced, and obeyed society's political values or beliefs. Political socialisation is the process of learning, welcoming, and maintaining the flow of political values. The circumstances under which political socialisation can take place are

almost limitless. Young people can be socialised to politics through dinner conversations with family members, watching television and movies, participating in a Facebook group, or texting with friends. The effects of these experiences are highly variable, as people can accept, reject, or ignore political messages.

2. Agents of political socialisation – floor exhibition

Participants are divided into seven different groups. Facilitators prepare the working room where, at seven different positions, they put A3 (or flipchart) papers with seven different agents of political socialisation. Each group will start with a specific paper and have 5 minutes to discuss and share the results of the paper discussion. After 5 minutes, facilitators will give a sign, and each group will rotate clockwise to the next position (paper). The process is repeated until all groups can visit all the positions and contribute to each paper placed in the working room. Agents of the socialisation placed on the seven different papers are:

- Family: families perpetuate values that support political authorities and can heavily contribute to children's initial political and ideological views or party affiliations. The role of the family is crucial in transmitting political values from one generation to the next.
- Intimate friend groups: An intimate group is a group of people with similar or close friends or close friends. There are many types of discussions with personal friends. The political attitude of friends can influence and change a person's moral outlook.
- Educational institutions: Attempts to increase loyalty to the country through the school curriculum include nationalist ideals, the past glory of the nation, discussions about the leaders of the nation, etc.
- Political parties: Political parties compete in elections by politically organising to leverage political power. People's political role depends on the political party's economic, social and political outlook and relationship with the political system.
- Mass media: With the help of the media, news, commentary, and images related to political events quickly reach the masses. Government or government party members use the media to voice their views. Opposition parties and their members take the same path.
- Professional organisations: Various organisations organised professionally are labour unions, trade unions, peasant associations, teachers' associations, student unions, etc. These organisations do not get political power like political parties or participate in electoral competition but try to preserve their professional interests by influencing the government's decision-making process.
- Religious organisations: The political role of religious organisations in modern-day secular democratic states has diminished. Yet it turns out that they have some indirect role and are still trying to influence the political views of their members in various ways.

Once all groups finalise the work, they present inputs from each poster to the whole group.

Day 3

Session: Voting and why is it important
Duration: 90 min
Number of participants: 20

Objectives:
- To understand the terms of Representative Democracy and Liberal Democracy
- To explore the role of voting in the contemporary democracy
- To explore other forms of political participation

Step by step:
1. Representative Democracy and Liberal Democracy

Participants divided into four groups need to explore and present creatively (through collage posters, video, presentation, and memes; they choose the media) what Representative Democracy and Liberal Democracy are. 2 groups are working on one term, but separately. Groups present the outcomes of their work and discuss how they interpreted these terms.

2. Voting

Short input from the facilitators about the role of voting in Representative Democracy, levels of the election, legitimacy of government, an electoral system in Croatia and difference from other countries.

Discussion:
- Do you vote?
- Why don't young people take their right to vote? (according to the research)
- How to encourage young people to vote?
- What can the youth work sector do to empower young people to vote?

3. Other forms of political activism

The facilitator starts the session by introducing the group to the concepts of political activism and brainstorming different activities that one can do to be a political activist. Some of the examples are:
- Organising strikes
- Organising campaigns and riots
- Rioting against bad politics
- Online activism
- Posts on social media
- Developing education brochures
- Campaigns in city street

The facilitator concludes the introductory step by underlining the definition of political activism and different activities that can be taken as part of political activism. Activism is an action that goes beyond conventional politics, typically being more energetic, passionate, innovative, and committed. In systems of representative democracy, conventional politics includes election campaigning, voting, passing laws, and lobbying politicians. Action outside of these arenas includes neighbourhood organising, protest marches, and sit-ins.

4. World Cafe: forms of political activism

In the beginning, facilitators and participants define the four most important forms of political activism activities based on their previous experience and knowledge from the local communities:
- Demonstrations and protests
- Boycotts

- Petitions and letter-writings
- Social media campaigns

Afterwards, participants are divided into four groups. Facilitators present the world cafe methodology with four different tables (each table has a topic of one of the previously mentioned activities), and participants are asked to describe how they imagine this political activity and what the possible challenges they could face when implementing it; and what are the possible solutions on those challenges. Each group has 10 minutes to spend on each table, and the exercise is completed once all participants visit all tables and contribute to each topic. When all participants finished contributing to each table, they returned to their starting position, where they prepared presentations with all inputs from the whole group, including examples from the local/national/European level.

Session: Evaluation of the workshops
Duration: 30 min
Number of participants: 20

Objectives:
- To conclude and evaluate the workshop

Step by step:
1. Oral evaluation by using Dixit cards

The facilitators invite the group for the last sharing in the plenary. This will be done by using Dixit cards. The facilitator spreads Dixit cards on the floor and asks participants to take one card that they consider represents the best of them and their impressions during these workshops, what they have learned, how the sessions were organised, and similar. When all participants take the chosen cards, they share their impressions individually.

2. Visual evaluation form: Pizza evaluation

Visual evaluation form by using pizza shape drawn on the big flipchart paper to evaluate different aspects of the activity.

3. For the future

One flipchart is on the wall, and participants are asked to write down what they would like to explore and learn more.

4. Official closure of the educational activity

Final words by facilitators in the plenary and a big group hug at the end.

Report – Follow-up workshops in the local community – LTTA 1 "Active political participation, engagement in democratic processes"

Berlin, Germany

Day 1: What's Democracy and Democracy Reality in Germany

Duration: 120 minutes

Methodology: Presentation followed by group discussions

Participants: 29

Goals:

- To understand the concept of democracy and its key principles.
- To explore the history and development of democracy in Germany.
- To analyze the current state of democracy in Germany, including its strengths and challenges.
- To encourage critical thinking and discussion on the role of citizens in a democratic society.

1. Introduction

⸺ Welcome and icebreaker activity: Quick round-table introduction.

⸺ Brief overview of the workshop's goals and agenda.

2. Presentation: Understanding Democracy (20 minutes)

⸺ Definition and key principles of democracy.

⸺ Brief history of democracy:

3. Presentation: Democracy in Germany - An Overview

⸺ Historical development of democracy in Germany.

⸺ The Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany and its significance.

⸺ The structure of the German government and political system (Federal, State, Local).

⸺ Key features of German democracy: Rule of law, federalism, social state principles, and participatory democracy.

4. Group Discussion: Democracy in Practice in Germany

⸻ Breakout into small groups.

⸻ Each group receives a topic related to democracy in Germany (e.g., electoral system, political participation, freedom of press, minority rights, federalism, etc.).

⸻ Discuss how these aspects contribute to or challenge the democratic process in Germany.

Day 2: Challenges to Democracy in Germany

Duration: 120 minutes

Methodology: Presentation followed by group discussions

Participants: 29

Objectives:

- To identify and understand the current challenges facing democracy in Germany.
- To explore the role of the European Union in shaping and influencing democracy in Germany.
- To engage participants in discussions about the proactive role citizens can play in sustaining and enhancing democracy.

1. Depper in the Democracy in Germany and its factors.

⸻ Present current challenges facing democracy in Germany (e.g., political extremism, disinformation, integration and diversity, environmental and economic challenges).

⸻ Discuss the role of the European Union in shaping democracy in Germany.

2. Group Discussion: Our Role in Democracy

⸻ Reconvene into groups to discuss the role of citizens in sustaining and enhancing democracy.

⸻ Each group prepares a short presentation on their discussions

3. Conclusion and Reflection

— Groups share their insights.

— Open floor for final thoughts and reflections on the day's discussions.

— Closing remarks

Day 3: Engagement in Political Activism

Duration: 90 minutes

Methodology: Presentation followed by group discussions

Participants: 29

Goals:

- To introduce participants to the concept and importance of political activism.
- To explore different forms of political activism and examples of successful activism.
- To equip participants with practical tips and strategies for becoming active participants in political change.

1. Introduction to Political Activism

Objective: To provide participants with an understanding of what political activism entails and why it is crucial for sustaining democratic values and promoting social change.

Presentation on Political Activism

— Definition of political activism and its significance in a democracy.

— Historical examples of successful political activism.

— Various forms of political activism: from grassroots movements to digital activism.

— The impact of political activism on policy changes and social awareness.

Interactive Discussion

— Facilitator poses questions to the group to stimulate discussion on their perceptions of political activism and its relevance today.

— Participants share their thoughts on what barriers exist to becoming more
politically active and how those might be overcome.

2. Becoming a Political Activist: Practical Steps

Objective: To empower participants with knowledge and strategies for engaging in
political activism, tailored to their interests and capacities.

Group Activity

— Participants break into small groups based on interest areas (e.g., environmental
activism, social justice, political reform).

— Each group discusses and lists potential activism activities they can undertake
individually or collectively.

— Groups consider practical steps for engagement, including digital activism, joining
local advocacy groups, or starting a petition.

The first day of our workshop on "What's Democracy and Democracy Reality in Germany"
successfully concluded with participants deeply engaged in both presentations and group
discussions. The session began with an introduction and brief icebreaker activity that set a
positive tone for the day, encouraging open communication and collaboration among
attendees. The workshop kicked off with a foundational presentation on democracy,
covering its definition, key principles, and historical evolution. Participants showed keen
interest in understanding different models of democracy and how these have influenced
modern governance systems.
The second presentation focused on the development of democracy in Germany, detailing
the structure of the German political system, the significance of the Basic Law, and the
principles of federalism and social state. This provided participants with a solid
understanding of Germany's democratic framework. Participants were divided into small
groups, each discussing different aspects of democracy in Germany, such as the electoral
system, political participation, and minority rights. These discussions were vibrant, with
participants sharing insights and raising questions about how these elements function in the
context of German democracy.
The second day we focused on current challenges to democracy in Germany sparked
thoughtful debate among participants. Issues such as political extremism, disinformation,
and economic challenges were highlighted as pressing concerns that democracy faces in
Germany today. The final group discussion focused on the role of citizens in sustaining
democracy. Participants were enthusiastic about exploring how individual actions and civic
engagement contribute to a healthy democratic society. Each group presented their
discussions, emphasizing the importance of participation, education, and dialogue in
maintaining democratic values.
The third day started with an informative presentation defining political activism and
illustrating its significance through historical and contemporary examples. Participants

engaged deeply with the content, showing particular interest in the diverse forms of activism presented, from grassroots movements to digital campaigns.

An interactive discussion followed, where participants explored their perceptions of political activism and identified barriers to involvement. This session sparked lively conversations, with many expressing a newfound understanding of activism's broad scope and its critical role in shaping society.

The second session focused on actionable steps for engaging in political activism. Participants were divided into small groups based on their interests, facilitating focused discussions on specific activism areas. Groups brainstormed potential activities and outlined practical engagement strategies, ranging from digital advocacy to joining or forming local advocacy groups.

The sharing session that followed allowed participants to present their plans and seek feedback. This collaborative environment fostered a sense of community and mutual support among attendees, with many expressing a commitment to pursue the activism activities discussed.

Report – Follow-up workshops in the local community – LTTA 1 "Active political participation, engagement in democratic processes"

Mostar, 16.05.2022 – 18.05.2022

Day 1, 16.05.2022

Activity: Using politics as a means for young individuals in Bosnia and Herzegovina to attain their objectives.

Format: Presentation, Group discussion

Duration: 120 min

Number of participants: 20

Goals:

- To facilitate a collaborative activity focused on enhancing participants' research and presentation skills by conducting internet research on political history spanning various eras and presenting their findings.

- To deliver a brief presentation with the goal of educating attendees about fundamental political concepts, statistics on youth involvement in political processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, emphasizing the significance of youth participation in such processes.

The activity objectives are:

- To foster awareness of the current state of youth involvement in political processes in Montenegro and emphasize its significance.
- To highlight the importance of and various avenues for political engagement among all members of society.
- To familiarize participants with the concept of politics.
- To enhance teamwork, research, and presentation skills among participants.

Introductions:

During the initial training session, attendees were introduced to the concept of politics, as well as the various forms and significance of political participation. Additionally, they were presented with the findings of a research conducted by the NGO Youth Power. This research aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current state of youth involvement in Bosnian politics, including the barriers encountered by young individuals and their attitudes towards violence and democracy. Following the theoretical segment, participants engaged in a collaborative exercise, organized into four groups, where they delved into researching various forms of political activity across history. This allowed all attendees to explore and present their findings. Consequently, participants were exposed to a diverse array of historical insights pertaining to political activity spanning different epochs.

Day 1 - 16.05.2022

Activity: Political Education of youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Format: Presentation + Teamwork Activity

Duration: 120 min

Number of Participants: 20

Goals:

- To deliver an informative presentation introducing participants to the multifaceted political landscape of Bosnia and Herzegovina, encompassing the state's various forms, democracy, parliamentary democracy, parliament, political parties, coalitions, and non-governmental organizations.

- To facilitate a teamwork activity aimed at nurturing critical thinking, fostering freedom of thought, enhancing decision-making abilities, honing negotiation skills, and refining presentation techniques through the creation of political teams ("parties") based on ideologies and potential coalition-building exercises.

Activity Objectives:

- To acquaint participants with the complex political environment of Bosnia and Herzegovina, providing them with insights into the state's structures, democratic processes, and political dynamics.

- To encourage participants to think critically and independently, fostering an environment conducive to the exploration of diverse ideologies and perspectives.

- To empower participants to make informed decisions, negotiate effectively, and articulate their viewpoints persuasively in a collaborative setting.

- To inspire creativity and innovation in political discourse and strategy development.

Introduction:

The workshop commenced with a comprehensive presentation aimed at deepening participants' understanding of Bosnia and Herzegovina's political landscape. Through an exploration of key concepts such as statehood, democracy, parliamentary democracy, parliamentary institutions, political party systems, coalition-building dynamics, and the role of civil society organizations, participants gained valuable insights into the intricacies of the country's governance structures and political processes. Building upon this foundational knowledge, participants, organized into groups, embarked on a transformative journey of political exploration and ideological discovery. Tasked with creating their own "political parties" and "non-governmental organizations," participants were encouraged to delve into the nuances of political ideology, policy formulation, and coalition-building strategies. Emphasizing the importance of youth engagement in shaping the future of Bosnian politics, participants were challenged to envision innovative solutions to address pressing societal issues and advocate for positive change. In addition to fostering a deeper understanding of Bosnia and Herzegovina's political landscape, the workshop also aimed to equip participants with the necessary skills and competencies to navigate the complexities of political life. By providing opportunities for hands-on learning, collaborative problem-solving, and effective communication, the workshop sought

to empower participants to emerge as informed, engaged, and effective leaders capable of driving meaningful political transformation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and beyond.

Day 2 - 17.05.2022

Activity: Engaging Parties and Voters - Voter Motivation and Political Culture in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Format: Presentation + Teamwork Activity

Duration: 120 min

Number of Participants: 20

Goals:

- To deliver a concise presentation introducing participants to the concept and forms of electoral systems, the role of voters, factors influencing voter turnout, and strategies for motivating abstainers.

- To conduct a teamwork activity aimed at developing strategic, writing, emotional, and presentation skills through the creation of voter engagement strategies and the drafting of invitation/motivational letters.

Activity Objectives:

- To familiarize participants with the concept and forms of electoral systems, the role of voters, the phenomenon of abstention, and methods for motivating abstainers within the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina's political landscape.

- To develop strategic thinking, writing proficiency, emotional intelligence, and presentation abilities.

Introductions:

The second day of the training commenced with a comprehensive presentation elucidating the concept and forms of electoral systems, the significance of voters, the challenges of voter abstention, and effective strategies for voter engagement. Special emphasis was placed on understanding the unique dynamics of elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the role of youth in shaping political outcomes. Following this presentation, participants, building upon the "parties" and "organizations" created during the initial day of the workshop, embarked on devising strategies to engage voters, particularly focusing on youth participation. They meticulously crafted plans aimed at mobilizing voters and increasing political participation, considering the specific challenges and opportunities within the Bosnian political context. Additionally, participants drafted invitation and motivational letters tailored to resonate with different voter demographics, which were subsequently presented to the group.

Day 2 - 17.05.2022

Activity: Empowering Youth in Politics - Enhancing Voter Engagement and Political Participation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Format: Presentation + Teamwork Activity

Duration: 120 min

Number of Participants: 20

Goals:

- Lead a collaborative activity fostering strategic thinking, enhancing writing proficiency, nurturing emotional intelligence, and improving presentation skills by guiding participants in crafting voter engagement strategies and composing persuasive invitation/motivational letters.

- Deliver a concise presentation to acquaint participants with the concept and diverse types of electoral systems, emphasizing the crucial role of voters, factors impacting voter turnout, and successful approaches to inspire abstainers.

Activity Objectives:

- To acquaint participants with the intricacies of electoral systems, voter behavior, and the phenomenon of abstention within the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina's political landscape.

- To empower participants to devise innovative approaches to enhance youth participation in politics and drive positive change in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- To foster collaboration and creativity in developing voter engagement strategies tailored to resonate with Bosnian youth.

- To equip participants with the skills and confidence to advocate for their interests and contribute meaningfully to the political process.

Introductions:

Presentation shedding light on the concept and various forms of electoral systems, the pivotal role of voters in shaping political outcomes, and the challenges posed by voter abstention. Special emphasis was placed on the potential of youth engagement to drive positive change and rejuvenate Bosnia and Herzegovina's political landscape. Building upon the foundational knowledge gained, participants, drawing inspiration from the "parties" and "organizations" created during the preceding workshop, embarked on devising strategies to mobilize voters, with a particular focus on engaging Bosnian youth. Through collaborative brainstorming and strategic planning, participants developed innovative approaches to increase youth participation in politics and address barriers to political engagement. In addition to developing voter engagement strategies, participants crafted invitation and motivational letters tailored to appeal to different segments of the Bosnian youth population. These letters aimed to inspire young people to actively participate in the political process and effect positive change in their communities. By empowering participants to become agents of change in their communities, the

workshop sought to harness the potential of youth to drive meaningful improvements in Bosnia and Herzegovina's political landscape, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and vibrant democracy.

Day 3, 18.05.2022

Activity: Mobilizing Political Engagement

Format: Presentation + Teamwork Activity

Duration: 240 min

Number of Participants: 20

Goals:

- To deliver a concise presentation introducing participants to the concept and various forms of electoral systems, emphasizing the crucial role of voters, factors influencing voter turnout, and effective techniques for motivating abstainers.

- To facilitate a teamwork activity aimed at nurturing strategic thinking, enhancing writing skills, fostering emotional intelligence, and refining presentation abilities through the development of voter engagement strategies and the creation of invitation/motivational letters.

Activity Objectives:

- To acquaint participants with the concept and various types of electoral systems, emphasizing the significance of voters and addressing the phenomenon of abstention within the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina's political environment.

- To cultivate strategic planning abilities, improve writing proficiency, enhance emotional intelligence, and polish presentation skills.

Introductions:

The third day of the training commenced with a comprehensive presentation elucidating the concept and varieties of electoral systems, underscoring the importance of voters and addressing challenges associated with voter abstention. Special emphasis was placed on comprehending the unique dynamics of elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a particular focus on the role of youth in shaping political outcomes. Following the presentation, participants, drawing inspiration from the "parties" and "organizations" established during the preceding workshop, embarked on devising strategies to engage voters, with a specific emphasis on youth involvement. They meticulously crafted plans aimed at mobilizing voters and bolstering political participation, considering the specific challenges and opportunities within Bosnia and Herzegovina's political landscape. In addition to voter engagement strategies, participants explored various types of political activism activities, including grassroots organizing, public demonstrations, social media campaigns, and community outreach initiatives. They discussed how these activities are organized, their potential impact, and the importance of grassroots mobilization in effecting meaningful change. Through collaborative brainstorming and strategic planning, participants honed their skills in designing effective political engagement campaigns, ultimately empowering them to become proactive agents of change in Bosnia and Herzegovina's political arena.

Based on the feedback gathered from participants through the evaluation form, those who attended the three-day workshops experienced the following positive outcomes:

- Enhanced their knowledge base

- Developed proficiency in rhetoric skills

- Expanded their social network by making new friends

- Gained awareness about political and media literacy

- Felt empowered to freely express their creativity and ideas

- Acquired valuable new experiences, enriching their overall learning journey, and more.