

JUST EU and ME
Empowering youth in the EU to advocate for their social rights

*Do you want to advocate for youth social rights in your country and in the European Union?
Do you want to know how the EU works and how to make your voice heard?
Curious about how to create an engaging advocacy strategy?
Looking forward to connecting with other activists across Europe?*

In 2023 and 2024 the JUST EU and ME project will support youth activists in Bulgaria, Italy, Poland, Sweden and Spain, with skills and opportunities to advocate for social rights and the implementation of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) (EPSR) at local and EU level, particularly: access to education, gender equality and promoting equal rights for marginalized groups.

Youth are bearing the brunt of social and economic crisis, as for Covid-19, and proved to have the capacity to develop proposals for a stronger post-pandemic economic and social system. Low-paid workers and temporary workers were the first to be laid-off due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and migrants' participation in the labour market was also disproportionately affected ([European Pillar Social Rights Action Plan 2021](#)).

The project will offer the opportunity to acquire skills for engaging communities and stakeholders and to create advocacy plans at national at Eu level on social rights, to be addressed to institutions and stakeholders in the context of the 2024 European elections.

OVERVIEW

The JUST EU and ME project aims at providing young people (18-30 yo) and representatives of youth associations with knowledge, skills and opportunities for actively participating in developing recommendations to improve EU and Member States policies addressing social justice issues, such as access to education, gender equality, equal opportunities etc., and implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The project is implemented by seven European organizations: ActionAid Italia (Italy), European Movement International (Belgium), Foundation of Alternative Educational Initiatives (Poland), International Initiatives for Cooperation (Bulgaria), International Initiatives for Cooperation Galicia (Spain), Nordic Diaspora Forum (Sweden) and Transitions (Czech Republic).

It will reach more countries through online events and dissemination activities (Austria, Netherlands, Romania, Germany, Ireland, Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia etc.).

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM (2023)

The project promotes the use of complementary participatory methodologies to provide youth activists and representatives of youth associations with the skills to plan and implement youth-led project works at the local level and promote an effective dialogue between youth, citizens and European institutions and stakeholders.

The project's structure is composed of:

1. a transnational **capacity building program** for young activists; (February 2023 - October 2023)
2. youth-led **advocacy initiatives addressing decision makers and stakeholders** in Italy, Poland, Bulgaria, Spain and Sweden aimed at sensitizing and mobilizing peers and local communities; (June 2023 – April 2024)
3. **a space for dialogue** with European stakeholders including media, EU institutions and relevant stakeholders. (April 2024 – October 2024)

"The European Union and Pillar of Social Rights" by [European Movement International](#)

Date: **Friday, 3 February 2023**, 9:00 - 13:00 and 14:00 - 15:30 (CET)

Modality / Location: on-line

Participation: free, upon registration via [webform](#).

Description: The workshop will provide learning and networking sessions on the project topic and scope. On one hand it will introduce the **European Union, its principles, institutions and decision-making process, and the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) principles**, especially principles 1, 2 and 3. On the other hand it will let participants to **engage with EU decision-makers, leading civil society organizations, researchers, activists and experts** in the respective fields.

List of speakers and more details can be found in [EMI website](#).

"Advocating For Change Workshop" by [ActionAid Italia](#)

Dates: **Friday 3 and Saturday 4 March 2023**

Modality / Location: in situ (**Bologna, Italy**)

Participation: free, only for activists participating in national project works.

Description: A hands-on workshop for understanding how to structure an **effective advocacy action through campaigning and lobbying**. On one hand the session will let participants know **successful practices of advocacy initiatives** by Italian movements and civic coalitions. On the other hand participants will acquire major **methodologies and tools** (power and stakeholders mapping, SMART objective strategy, prototyping, results evaluation, etc.). Each group will be able to use such skills to elaborate a draft of the advocacy plan for each national context and discuss them with other groups. The workshop will be blended: an introductory webinar, a 2-days in situ session and an online session to assess competencies and discuss group work results.

“Theory of Change Workshop” by [Foundation of Alternative Educational Initiative](#)

Dates: two alternative sessions, either on **Saturday, 25th of March 2023** (10.00 - 17.00) or **Wednesday, 29th of March 2023** (10.00 - 17.00).

Modality / Location: on-line

Participation: free, upon registration via [webform](#) through which it is possible to choose the preferred session.

Description: the workshop will provide activists with skills to envision and plan an effective social intervention through **Theory of Change methodology** to be employed for advocacy initiatives. Theory of Change is a rigorous and participatory process which helps different groups and stakeholders to **define their long-term goals identifying influencing factors** (ideologies, values, preconceptions, stereotypes) and the **conditions that must be met to achieve these goals**. Both sessions will include lunch break.

“Workshop on Participatory research” by [Nordic Diaspora Forum](#)

Dates: **Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th April 2023**.

Modality / Location: in situ (**Stockholm, Sweden**)

Participation: free, only for activists participating in national project works.

Description: The workshop will introduce **different research designs, methods, and frameworks that engage impacted communities** for the purpose of action or change. Participatory research engages people who are not necessarily trained in research but belong to or represent the interests of the people who are the focus of the research. This form of research is developed as a way of **involving people who have been considered voiceless, or powerless**, so that their perspectives and experiences are reflected in the data collected.

“Trust in Media Workshop” by [Transitions](#)

Date: **16 or 17 may 2023 (to be confirmed)**.

Modality / Location: on-line

Participation: free, upon registration via webform (to be published in partners social media and websites).

Description: Participants will understand principles of **Factchecking**, a methodology **counteracting the misinformation** on very important topics, allowing to verify the truthfulness of statements and facts through research and evaluation of data, facts sources etc.

“Intercultural Dialogue Workshop” by [International Initiatives for Cooperation](#)

Dates: **Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th of June 2023**

Modality / Location: in situ (**Bansko, Bulgaria**)

Participation: free, for activists participating in national project works.

Description: Participants will learn how to use the **Intercultural Dialogue** methodology to create mutual understanding across targets’ perspectives while giving them equal hearing, discouraging abusive or derogatory language, identifying common grounds and priorities of action. Key for this methodology is the role of the “**Dialogue Conductor**”, the person who is responsible for all aspects related to the successful conducting (design, preparation and implementation) of a dialogue activity

among heterogeneous groups or individuals in terms of origin, culture, political view, gender, religious beliefs.

“**Workshop on Structured Democratic Dialogue Process**” by [Foundation of Alternative Educational Initiative](#)

Dates: **Saturday 14th** and **Sunday 15th October 2023**

Modality / Location: in situ (**Kraków, Poland**)

Participation: only for activists participating in national project works.

Description: Participants will learn and experiment the use of **Structured Democratic Dialogue Process**, an effective **group decision-making methodology for managing complex processes aimed at developing public policies in collaboration between the citizens, stakeholders and public bodies**. Participants will discuss their ideas, cluster and vote the most important ones. Then, influences among ideas are analysed to create an **‘influence tree’** (‘Wall of Obstacles,’ ‘Vision Map’ or ‘Action Map’) later presented to other participants and discussed. It promotes mutual understanding, consensus building and trust between participants.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

For **participating in online events** it is possible to register using the forms: some of them are already available above, while the remaining ones will be published in partners’ websites and channels.

If you’re **aged 18-30** and you are interested in getting engaged in one of **the youth activists groups just get in touch with the partners** (see the contacts shown below) **according to the country where you are based**.

- ITALIA: ActionAid Italia (*attivismo at actionaid.org*)
- BULGARIA: International Initiatives for Cooperation (*office at iicbg.org; tkostadinka at [gmail.com](mailto:tkostadinka@gmail.com)*)
- SPAIN: International Initiatives for Cooperation Galicia (*iicg.gal at [gmail.com](mailto:iicg.gal@gmail.com)*)
- POLAND: Foundation of Alternative Educational Initiative (*faie at fundacjaie.eu*)
- SWEDEN: Nordic Diaspora Forum (*nordicdforum at [gmail.com](mailto:nordicdforum@gmail.com)*)

JUST EU and ME project is funded by the European Union’s Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme (2021-2027)