

„Women, Europe and Democracy“

March 2014 – February 2015

A youth in action project

Action 1.3 - youth and democracy -



... "a reflection on the image and role of the modern woman, on her real contribution and participation in the social, economic, political and cultural contemporary society. today, as in the past, there is still the need to respond to the problem of the limited involvement of women, especially of young women, in the democratic life of their community. "

Mosaico Association

in cooperation with:

- **Noi Voci di Donne**,
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presents ...

A project which promotes and supports the social-, economic-, political- and cultural inclusion of women, through the implementation of initiatives/activities of orientation, information, training and setting of opportunities at local and European levels. A better knowledge of the mechanisms of representative democracy, including the functioning of the institutions and of European policies on equal opportunities.

A project co-financed by



Description

"Women, Europe and Democracy" involves 40 young people, especially women, in age between 18 and 30, from 4 different countries (Italy, France, Germany, Latvia) in a "youth and democracy Action" project from 01.03.2014 to 28.02.2015, whose main themes are active citizenship, democratic life, the role and importance of women in civil society. The 1 year project take place in each involved country through local activities and 4 international coordination meetings, they will link the international cooperation preparing, supporting and reporting the results of the local activities. Objectives of the project are to enable the participants to acquire and develop specific civil, political and communicative skills, to mature critical and constructive attitudes favorable to "act for democracy". Through workgroups, events, gender observatories and initiatives, the project will help young people, including women often disadvantaged in comparison with the opposite sex, to acquire a bigger awareness of their capacities and role in the participation to the political and social life.

The main activities will consist in researches realized through the establishment of a "gender observatory", whose tasks will result through visits to women's structures, interviews/video-interviews with institutional 'actors', on the situation in the 4 countries in order to put in place, debates, exchange of experiences and comparison, basing on criticisms and good examples. The "gender observatory" will be processed and edited in a new online "women for women-women in action" magazines free consulted by any user and to be presented, simultaneously to on CD-ROM containing all the material collected and produced in one year project, during the final evaluation and conference (last international meeting). All activities (local and international) will be realized with informal and intercultural methodologies aimed at strengthening the common sense of European citizenship, to promote the integration and participation of people with few opportunities.

"Women, Europe and Democracy" will lead to a reflection on the image and the role of the modern woman, on her real contribution and participation in the social, economic, political and cultural life in the contemporary society. Today, as in the past, there is still the need to respond to the problem of the limited involvement of women, especially of young women in the democratic life of their community.

Over the years, she has managed to reclaim the right to gender equality, achieving several breakthroughs, and to this moment, there have been considerable changes concerning women position and roles: more relevant roles in civil society, even in some sectors (teaching, social work and / or assistance children, youth or other vulnerable groups, employment/volunteering by organizations and associations active in social, cultural, youth policies fields, etc.) the female gender predominated in number, although occupying very rarely a "top" position, although she plays a "central" role.

Starting from thesis considerations, and in order to respond to the needs of an adaptation of the current context to the "changes" regarding the presence and impact of women on community life, the project aims as **General objectives**:

Draw the attention of women, especially young girls, to act in civil society, to play an active role, enhancing its relevance in the workplace and promoting adequate female presence in the

managerial classes, in order to make the institution more and more inclined/willing to recognition of their skills. This is of fundamental importance in a democracy that wants to get rich in terms of the effective guarantee of equal opportunities.

-Strengthen the commitment of the young women, the personal motivations and / or collective and the ability to enable own operational citizenship in the representative democracy mechanisms, taking advantage from available participation opportunities and, where possible, opportunities to establish gender equality.

-Encourage their involvement in public life, through a better understanding of the decision-making processes mechanisms, which are often too far away and inaccessible, structuring approach forms/contact with the institutions, therefore, creating a new, closer relationship and balance between young people (reaffirming the principle of gender equality) / public authorities and decision makers, providing the real chance to play an active citizens role in their local communities and at the European level.

The main purpose of the project is to stimulate and enable the participation of young people (especially the women). The autonomy of *behaviors* and *decisions* starting from acting in their daily life, such as vanishing point for the development of a democratic society in general: we cannot restrict our-self to be passive spectators, recipients of ideas and proposals policies realized at the end by a “third parties”, but we have to be protagonists our own lives, our own future.