



EuropEdges

EUROPEDGES PROJECT

EDGES E-MAGAZINE



Fundația IKAROS
pentru Tineri Activi



European Center for Research and
Regional Development



PYLON ONE



CERC

Community Educational Research Center



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear Readers,

Welcome to the fourth edition of our EuropEdges Magazine! This issue is particularly special as it marks the conclusion of a remarkable journey of youth empowerment and transnational cooperation. Our latest meeting in Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal, was not just a gathering; it was the culmination of months of hard work, creativity, and collaboration among young people across Europe and beyond.

In this edition, we spotlight the outstanding efforts of the international teams that emerged from our project. These young leaders, supported by local volunteers from Portugal, Romania, Italy, Greece, and Latvia, have developed innovative initiatives that address pressing social and environmental issues, from combating digital divides to fostering community wellness through urban gardens.

The energy, commitment, and vision demonstrated by all participants were truly inspiring. This magazine captures the essence of these endeavors, highlighting not only the projects themselves but also the spirit of international solidarity that made them possible. We are thrilled to share the experiences, challenges, and successes of these young change-makers with you.

We hope you enjoy this edition and feel as inspired as we are by the stories of youth empowerment and collaboration that follow. Let's continue to support and encourage young people to take the lead in creating a better and more inclusive future for all.



Main Content:



Introduction: Celebrating Youth Empowerment at the Santa Maria da Feira Meeting

Welcome to the fourth edition of EuropEdges Magazine, dedicated to the incredible journey of young changemakers who gathered at the International Youth Meeting (IYM) in Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal. This meeting marks the culmination of months of collaborative efforts and innovative thinking by young participants from Italy, Portugal, Romania, Greece, and Latvia. Guided by the principles of democratization and youth empowerment, these young leaders have come together to design and propose transnational initiatives aimed at making a tangible impact in their communities.

The Santa Maria da Feira meeting was not just a convergence of ideas; it was a vibrant celebration of diversity, collaboration, and shared vision. Over two days, participants engaged in workshops, presented their projects, and built lasting connections with peers from across Europe.



As this edition of EuropEdges Magazine highlights, the initiatives conceived during this event reflect the creativity, commitment, and forward-thinking spirit of Europe's youth. Join us as we explore the innovative projects, the people behind them, and the next steps in this inspiring journey towards a more inclusive and democratic Europe.

1. Group Creation: Building Bridges Across Borders

One of the key objectives of the EuropEdges project was to foster collaboration among young people from diverse backgrounds. Initially, the plan was to form three groups comprising participants from different partner countries. However, recognizing the challenges of coordinating across time zones and the desire to maximize participation, the decision was made to establish at least one group per partner country.



This approach allowed for the creation of twelve groups, involving a total of 53 young individuals from nine nationalities, including Italy, Portugal, Romania, Greece, Latvia, Brazil, Argentina, Morocco, and Nigeria.

Each group was tasked with developing three project proposals addressing key issues such as sustainability, digital literacy, mental health, and civic engagement. These projects were then refined through a series of online meetings and face-to-face sessions, culminating in the presentation of their proposals at the IYM. The diversity of backgrounds and perspectives within these groups enriched the collaborative process, leading to innovative solutions tailored to the unique challenges faced by different communities.



2. Project Design: Innovating for Impact

The transnational teams, guided by their shared commitment to youth empowerment and democratization, developed a range of project proposals that tackled some of the most pressing issues in their communities. Below is a snapshot of the innovative projects presented by each partner organization:

ECRRED (Latvia):

1. EnviroUnity: A project focused on sustainable waste management through community engagement and advocacy.
2. SilverTech: Bridging the digital divide among seniors with digital literacy workshops and tech hubs.
3. GreenVitalize: Transforming urban spaces into green gardens to promote community wellness.

Fundatia Ikaros (Romania):

1. Civic Engagement Workshops: Encouraging civic participation among youth in Bucharest through thematic workshops.
2. Tech-Free Play: Addressing the impact of excessive technology use on children with alternative activities.
3. Teen Relationships Education: Providing workshops on relationships and sexual education for teenagers, parents, and teachers.



Pylon One (Greece):

- CARE: A peer support initiative for youth mental wellness, focusing on creating safe spaces in schools.
- EcoHarbor: Revitalizing waterfronts with a focus on ecological sustainability and community involvement.
- Tech Hub: Bridging the digital divide by providing access to technology and digital literacy training.

Rosto Solidário (Portugal):

1. Bullying Awareness: Educating students on the impact of bullying through dynamic and reflective activities.
2. Fake News Education: Combating disinformation by integrating technology and education.
3. Racial Discrimination Awareness: Promoting integration and equality through inclusive community spaces.

USMA (Italy):

1. USMA Community Event: An inclusive sports event that combines workshops on food, upcycling, and emotions.
2. USMA and Music: A platform for sharing musical experiences among community members.
3. Lunch of Opportunities: An intercultural charity event to bring people together in support of a good cause.



3. Selection Criteria: Choosing the Best of the Best

To ensure the selection of impactful and innovative initiatives, a rigorous evaluation process was established by Rosto Solidário, involving representatives from each partner organization. The criteria included relevance to democratization and digitalization of youth, alignment with Youth Goals, interculturality, and the SMART objectives framework. Additional points were awarded for projects demonstrating sustainability and innovation.

The projects were scored by each partner, with the final rankings determined by averaging the scores. The selected initiatives exemplified the highest standards of creativity, feasibility, and potential impact, setting the stage for their implementation in the next phase of the EuropEdges project.

4. Final Winners: Celebrating Excellence in Youth Initiatives

The top initiatives from each partner organization were celebrated at the Santa Maria da Feira meeting, with participants showcasing their projects and engaging with their peers in discussions about the challenges and successes of their journey. The winning projects, highlighted below, represent the pinnacle of youth-led innovation:

- Rosto Solidário: "Racial Discrimination" – A project aimed at promoting inclusivity and human rights awareness.
- USMA: "USMA Community Event" – A sports-based initiative fostering community cohesion and social change.
- ECRRED: "GreenVitalize" – A project transforming urban spaces into community gardens.
- Fundatia Ikaros: "Playfulness and Fun Together" – Addressing the impacts of technology overuse on youth.
- Pylon One: "CARE" – A peer support program for youth mental health.





5. Next Steps: Moving Forward with Youth Empowerment

As we move forward, the focus will shift to implementing the selected initiatives, with ongoing support and monitoring from the EuropEdges project partners. A shared progress tracking system has been established to ensure that each project meets its goals and continues to align with the broader objectives of democratization and youth empowerment.

We invite you to stay connected with EuropEdges Magazine as we follow the progress of these remarkable projects and continue to spotlight the efforts of young leaders across Europe. Together, we are shaping a more inclusive, empowered, and democratic future for all.





Highlights from the Youth Meeting in Santa Maria da Feira

The International Youth Meeting in Santa Maria da Feira was a vibrant assembly of diverse young minds, all eager to share their ideas and collaborate on innovative solutions for their communities.

Hosted by Rosto Solidário, the event featured presentations of project proposals, interactive workshops, and dynamic discussions that emphasized the importance of youth involvement in addressing key societal challenges.

Here, we showcase the highlights of the meeting through photos and videos that capture the essence of the activities and the enthusiasm of the participants.







Closing Remarks & Call-to-Action (CTA)

The Journey Continues...

As we close this edition of "EDGES", we're filled with gratitude, hope, and anticipation. Gratitude for our vibrant community of readers like you; hope for a future where youth voices resonate even louder; and anticipation for the shared journey ahead.

Stay in the Loop!

Don't miss out on our next edition filled with more insights, stories, and inspirations. Subscribe now and ensure the pulse of youth-led initiatives remains at your fingertips.

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