

Understanding Europe

Understanding Europe is an educational network by and for young people committed to civic participation and to a democratic and open-minded Europe. At the centre of the project are young peers aged between 16 and 27. Active in youth-led organisations in thirteen European countries, they form the project's *European network* and shape it on many levels and in different capacities. The project creates a safe space for learning and collaboration, offering young people opportunities to explore, get to know themselves and better understand other world views.

The peers facilitate workshops on politics, media and democratic participation in schools and other educational settings in their countries. Currently, there are two digital and in-person workshops available for students and young people aged 14 and older: the *EU-Crash-Course* and the *Media-Crash-Course*. The formats are based on the approach of Peer Education, which aims to strengthen participation and self-determination. The peers act as role models and mediators at eye level with young people in and out of classrooms.

Peers are prepared for their work in classrooms through a qualification programme. Following the concept of *democratic citizenship education*, it provides knowledge and skills to enable young people to actively participate in society. Engaging with inclusive, diversity-sensitive and racism-critical approaches plays a central role.

As part of a *fellowship programme*, young educators, supported by experts, develop new workshop formats for the network. The project's educational materials and publications are freely available and are aimed at peer trainers, teachers and multipliers in school and in non-formal education.

Understanding Europe is a project of the *Schwarzkopf Foundation Young Europe*, funded by the *Mercator Foundation*.

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