



FAMILIES INTO THE EU PROGRAM!

WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

Families are an important learning space for democracy. Children learn from their parents. They take their parents as role models and therefore largely adopt the values, attitudes and opinions on political and social issues that they are taught. Opinions are formed in families e.g. about the significance and future of the European Union.

We must therefore strengthen and support families in their role as a place where democracy is learned. As a place for learning and reflecting about prejudices and apprehension one might have about other nations and cultures but also to get engaged for a self-determined, peaceful and happy life in an open, diverse and just European society families have a very important role.

In order for this strengthening to succeed, we have developed projects in which families from different cultures and countries live and work together for a short period of time.

For eight years now, we have been bringing families from different European countries into close contact with each other during our family exchanges. For this form of non-formal civic education with citizens, we have developed an easily understandable and transferable concept that brings families together, enables them to learn from each other and develop cultural sensitivity.

WHAT DO WE ASK FOR?

Families need international learning experiences in order to

- look beyond your own horizon and get to know new things
- develop inter- and transcultural competence
- an openness to diverse life concepts
- strengthen democratic values inside families

Therefore it is much-needed that families are able to participate in the Erasmus+ program from 2028 and that the ESF structural fund supports this strategy.

We are calling for an urgently needed support strategy that focuses on families as a central place of learning for democratic processes and as a place where values are conveyed.

Strengthening families through non-formal education means strengthening the foundations of democracy. This is exactly what we as a European Community need most at the moment!