



EYP INTERRAIL

Strengthening Democracy through Civic Education: Empowering Young Voters in Vocational Schools

About EYP and the Project

The [European Youth Parliament \(EYP\)](#) is one of Europe's largest platforms for citizenship education, intercultural dialogue and youth-led participation. All our work is by young people, for young people! We're active in 40 countries and organise more than 400 events annually, engaging around 25,000 young people each year. The EYP's **mission** is to inspire a generation of informed, open-minded and active young citizens who contribute to building a democratic and peaceful Europe.

Our **Interrail project** is a travelling civic education programme that brings peer-led, hands-on political learning directly into vocational schools. The format is designed for impact: teams of young volunteers visit several schools in different regions, delivering engaging and interactive workshops designed to make politics accessible and relevant.

Workshops combine teambuilding, drafting group position papers, and a simulated parliamentary debate, allowing students to explore European democracy in a way that's meaningful and empowering.

Why it Matters

Vocational students often have fewer opportunities for civic education. With packed curricula and limited resources, schools struggle to provide the space for democratic learning. EYP Interrail helps bridge this gap by:

- Bringing political education directly to students
- Using a peer-to-peer approach that builds trust and engagement
- Offering a flexible model adaptable to national school systems

This initiative empowers students to ask questions, voice opinions, and see their role in society with fresh eyes.

In [our most recent cycle](#) in Germany, three volunteer teams facilitated nine workshops at vocational schools, reaching **more than 200 students in just five days**. The impact was clear, as participants reported:

- Increased awareness of the EU's relevance and the role of its institutions
- Increased interest in political and/or social engagement, including participating in elections. We were proud to see teachers report enthusiasm and curiosity and hearing motivated students speak of politics as something they could finally relate to.

"I learned how much influence I, as a young person, and my other classmates can have on Europe and our future." – Participant

"It was more exciting than regular classes and you learn something for later in life." – Participant



How We Make it Work

The typical EYP workshop format consists of a session with three core components: **Teambuilding**, **Committee Work**, and **Plenary Session**. The first two components simulate the workings of the European Parliament and cover a wide range of topics, including international politics, human rights, climate change, health, energy, and more. Our workshops aim to provide students with fundamental knowledge of the European Union and make democratic structures tangible.

Day	Volunteer Team 1	Volunteer Team 2
Saturday	Arrival and teambuilding with volunteers	
Sunday	Volunteer training, final preparations, departure to first school city	
Monday	Two-day workshop at School 1 (Day 1 – Teambuilding and Committee Work)	Two-day workshop at School 2 (Day 1 – Teambuilding and Committee Work)
Tuesday	Two-day workshop at School 1 (Day 2 – Plenary Session), travel to next city	Two-day workshop at School 2 (Day 2 – Plenary Session), travel to next city
Wednesday	One-day workshop at School 3 (Teambuilding, Committee Work, Plenary Session)	One-day workshop at School 4 (Teambuilding, Committee Work, Plenary Session)
Thursday	Rest day, travel to next city	Rest day, travel to next city
Friday	One-day workshop at School 5 (Teambuilding, Committee Work, Plenary Session)	One-day workshop at School 6 (Teambuilding, Committee Work, Plenary Session)
Saturday	Debrief, reflection and lessons learned within the team	

Funding and Delivery

A total budget of **€45,000** is required to implement the project. This includes direct event-related costs, communication expenses, staff salaries and administrative overheads.

Based on the experience from the first project cycle, we know that this budget ensures smooth implementation, enables appropriate support for volunteers, and allows administrative tasks to be managed efficiently.

We ensure transparent communication and a well-structured process from the outset. Partners are more than welcome to contribute ideas, propose relevant speakers or schools, and support outreach to local communities or policy audiences.

At the same time, the project team brings its own experience, networks and tested methods to the table – ensuring professional coordination and effective delivery.

The EYP Interrail format offers a concrete and impactful way to support civic education among young people in vocational education. It's a chance to reach groups often left out of political conversations, and to strengthen democratic engagement where it matters the most – in the hearts and minds of tomorrow's leaders.