



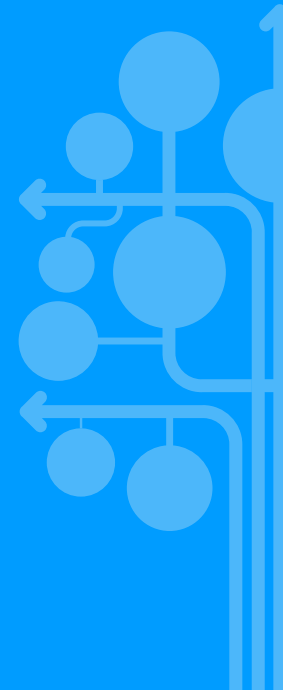
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# engage

## EPALE Resource Kit



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To fully engage in our society, between challenges and transformation processes, we must be **active and aware** as citizens.



**What skills are needed** to participate in democratic processes with awareness and responsibility? What educational paths should we envision to support adults as active actors for change?

These questions are the starting point for the thematic focus that EPALE, in 2023, dedicates to **skills for democratic life**.

In this Resource Kit, we have traced a **path** to orient ourselves among the many contents published on the platform on this topic. We'll look at how skills for democratic life have been interpreted, practiced, and discussed on EPALE in the past months.



## Follow the path!

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key facts

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skills

## 1. Skills for democracy: key facts

*We often talk about critical thinking, participation in society, and active citizenship, but: what do we actually mean by these terms? On EPALE, you'll find plenty of ways to unfold these concepts and find the right spaces to situate your practices in these realms.*

Start with the **Podcast** [Life Skills of the 21st Century. How to foster democratic engagement](#), to explore the connections between democracy and education with the help of experts from different parts of Europe.

After this broad exploration, read the **blog post** [Ensuring stronger Democracies through Citizenship Education](#), which traces the lines of the fundamental learning processes undergoing active citizenship.

Then, to observe and appreciate the different nuances of life and transversal skills, look at the **Online discussion** organised on EPALE on [Building skills for democratic life](#). You can watch the live streaming, review the inspiring comments in the written discussion, and read the [summarising blog post](#).

## 2. Building communities

*Individuals need to become a community to be aware of their own power and perceive themselves as a part of a collective entity. Community education and community-building activities can be key to fostering democracy.*

For a great introduction, we strongly recommend the open-access **ebook [Remaking Communities and Adult Learning](#)**, which reflects on the potential of ALE in engaging people in communities, connecting local and global issues.

**Sharing** and **dialogue** are key factors for building inclusive communities.

This can be achieved by implementing specific learning processes, such as **[Service-Learning](#)**, a type of experiential learning that helps learners become active and engaged members of society.

Communities are also built around **shared memories**, as shown by the project **[Memories Across Europe](#)**, which uses storytelling to bring together different generations along common values.

**The city**, as a space for transformation, collective awareness, and democratic practices, is at the centre of many amazing projects on community building:

- **[URB ART](#)** demonstrates how **art and creativity** can be powerful drivers for communities to thrive.
- **[Edu-City](#)** supports training new figures acting as **neighbourhood facilitators** for social engagement, co-creation, and capacity building.
- **[Map4accessibility](#)** invites citizens to action to improve **urban accessibility** through a co-design approach.

### 3. Navigating media complexity

*Disinformation, misinformation and toxic narratives, and the role they play in polarising public opinion and promoting hate speech, are a clear threat to our democracies. Now, more than ever, we need to improve media literacy.*

First of all, for a thorough **overview** on media literacy initiatives all around Europe, you can read the blog post [Media Literacy. Moving from marginal to a mainstream topic of concern.](#)

If you are interested in **practical tools**, have a look at these [Guidelines](#) for teachers and educators on tackling disinformation and promoting digital literacy through education and training.

Being **active producers** of media can be game-changer in navigating the complex media environment. This is at the centre of two Erasmus+ projects:

- [MILES](#) aims to develop critical and creative thinking through direct participation in **community media**.
- [YCreate](#), on the other hand, wants to counteract hate speech and behaviour in young people through creative and **participatory activities**.

And, when it comes to concrete practices, as it is often the case with ALE interventions, **inclusion** is a key feature:

- [Media4ALL](#) aims to improve adult educators' abilities to deliver effective and inclusive media education, with a specific focus on **low-skilled adults** and **marginalised communities**.
- The [LINK](#) project instead specifically addresses **older people**, to promote their informed use of the Internet

## 4. Fostering green skills

*Active citizenship also implies being aware of our individual and collective responsibility for the planet. Green skills should then be fostered, if we want to create a more sustainable future.*

Let's start with the basics: what are green skills? The **podcast [Demystifying green skills](#)**, by the European Training Foundation, tries to explain what they are, and why we need them.

Let's then delve deeper in the topic, with the blog post **[No way around greening the future. ALE's role in combating climate change](#)**, which, together with the main lines of the debate, provides many examples of **effective educational practices**.

Speaking of practices... to know how to improve **citizens' awareness** towards the environment and the adoption of **eco-friendly behaviours**, you can have a look at some of the many Erasmus+ projects displayed on EPALE:

- The **[GO BE ECO WebApp](#)** is meant to develop eco-habits, through a **sustainability game**.
- The project **[SusPack](#)**, helps citizens to make aware sustainable choices, developing their positive attitude toward **sustainable fresh food** and takeaway packaging.
- **[Growing Communities](#)**, instead, is addressed directly to adult educators, with a series of learning materials and OERs aimed to promote sustainable lifestyles and **permaculture**.