

Civic formation in higher education

Summary

Higher education plays a pivotal role in the formation of a young person as a citizen with an active life position. Based on a synthesis of literature and our own experience, we posit that the university system is in crisis and is failing to fulfill its original function. We intend to start a public discussion between main stakeholders of the high education system (students, representatives of the authorities and universities) through the creation of an interdisciplinary paper and public discussions on the relevance of the higher education system in Europe and its contribution to civic formation of students by September 2024.



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Social problem



Higher education (e.g. universities) plays a crucial role in the civic formation of young people but many recent policy developments (privatization, focus on economic benefits, neoliberal governance) have undermined this mission of higher education institutions and created stratification. Meanwhile, the lack of public discussion between students, policy makers and university representatives to manifest the current situation of the system and initiate changes.

Target Group

OUR MAIN TARGET AUDIENCE

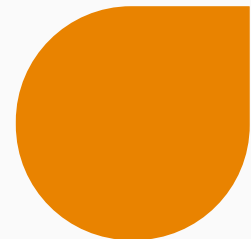
is European students (including young people with refugee experience). Each participant will have the opportunity to look at the state of the current education system from a broad angle, thanks to a systematic and critical analysis of the answers of experts from different fields of education. Our target audience will have a solid fact-based basis for continuing the public debate on the relevance of the education system in Europe.

THE ADDITIONAL TARGET GROUP

is representatives of authority and universities. We want our research to become a new wave of thoughts and “new air” in education institutions. Therefore the best way to get in there is to share our results with those who create education now - ministers of educational states or head directors of educational organizations, powerful educational leaders or creators of the educational movement.

THE INDIRECT TARGET GROUP:

- Supporters of politicians or members of organizations, followers of movements or listeners of powerful persons in the educational field.
- Audience of the experts who will take part in interviews.



Humanitarian system plugin

The refugee community will participate in action that affects them. 75% of our team members are young people with refugee backgrounds. Thus, the community of young Ukrainians with refugee experience is involved in solving a social problem. At least 50 % of participants of public discussion by students' side will be young people with refugee and migration background.

An expert on migration and minority rights will participate in the public debate, which will increase the quality of the discussion in the aspect of participation of minorities of different nationalities in European higher education.

Effective support in accordance with refugee specific needs. For our target group and including vulnerable groups, such as refugees, interviews mostly will be conducted in English with Ukrainian subtitles and some interviews will be in Ukrainian. The project also will show a mismatch of educational systems and systems of diploma nostrification what have a big effect to refugees around the world.

People and communities can safely report concerns and complaints and get them addressed. All interviews will be published on YouTube channel and the viewers will be able to leave comments behind each video and live streaming.

Social change

The project will initiate small local changes in the system as well as create a foundation and argumentation for long-term projects in the field of modernization of higher education systems.

The benefit of interviews is a more conscious understanding of the role of universities in the process of shaping society and deep into the multidimensionality of the question. The project will create a platform for searching new decisions or new forms, open a discussion and set the level of new standards of the high educational system. We as youth initiators “reserve a space for youth thoughts”; experts as representatives of different parts of the system will bring different voices, public persons will power the research by scaling up.



Objective and key results

1

At least 5000 people will receive a quality knowledge source as a foundation/ proof basis to continue research and initiate changes in the system (views on YouTube).

2

We will write a report summarizing the results of the interviews conducted:

- it will contain 3 scenarios for the development of higher education systems with and without intervention
- it will be published on a website of NGO Jedność
- it will be sent to 30 public people from the education sector

3

Our project will initiate a public discussion with around 40 people (students, local authority and university representatives).

Want to know more? Visit the program website [Youth Leadership for Emerging Future](#).