

# GROUNDUP



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## Webinar & Panel discussion

# Free travel, living, working: The Maastricht Treaty. GroundUp on the rights of EU citizens

*Diversity management in local areas*  
*European citizenship and education*

5 December 2024 & 17 January 2025

# AGENDA

Registration link: registration form  
**THE REGISTRATION IS OBLIGATORY**



Hosted online via zoom by  
**Connection:Berlin (Germany)**

# Introduction to the GroundUp project

From the GroundUp: Fostering Rural Youth Participation in the EU Agenda is a Network of Towns in the framework of the programme CERV is an initiative originating from a group of partnered Local Action Groups, supported by municipalities and non-for-profit civil society organizations from 14 EU Member States. The project activities are planned from January 2024 to September 2025. The goal is to **actively engage and also to empower our local citizens from rural and peripheral areas in Europe, especially young people, in the EU-related and local democratic processes**. We aim to develop measures which will respond to the needs faced in this regard by our small, peripheral and rural communities, and which will facilitate exchanges, peaceful relations and mutual understanding between citizens.

This online event focuses on deepening understanding of EU citizens' rights to travel, live, work, and study across borders. It explores how inclusion and diversity shape identity and manifest in diversity management within local policies. It is also designed for educators, youth workers, and students interested in programs, initiatives, and tools to promote EU citizenship and citizen engagement, whether they reside in major cities or smaller, peripheral areas. We warmly invite you to join us.

## Follow us for more

[https://www.instagram.com/groundup\\_project/](https://www.instagram.com/groundup_project/)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556445323406>

Watch a video from the last GroundUp face to face event: EU Citizenship and the rights of mobile citizens, Greece 1-4 October 2024

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2sp0fdLGBc>

## Goals of the event

- Deepen understanding of EU citizens' rights to travel, live, work, and study across borders.
- Gain insights into how diversity policies are implemented locally and discuss their impact on communities and individual identities.
- Solidify your understanding of EU rights, diversity policies, and participation mechanisms, while also thinking about how these can be applied or further explored individually.
- Learn about the European Citizens' Initiative, programmes and other tools for EU citizens' engagement.

# Overview

## 5 December 2024

This day is planned to reach out to external public's, beyond the project partnership.

*Open for European Local Action Groups in Europe, NGOs, civil society organisations, educators, towns' and municipalities, policy makers, local actors and activists, youth workers, students. With a certificate of attendance.*

10:00–11:30 CET

### Webinar: diversity management in local areas

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the local area with examples from Local Action Groups and municipalities in Europe on diversity management. Facilitated by Eliza Gaust

12:00–13:30 CET

### Panel discussion: European citizenship and education

GroundUp on the rights of EU citizens: free travel, living, working. Rights of EU citizens & the role of education. Moderated by Joanna Kopacka

## 17 January 2024

This day is dedicated to the project partners

*Internal meeting of the international partners of the GroundUp project, accompanied by their close stakeholders and youth.*

9:30–10:00 CET

### Morning coffee with German treats and GroundUp project updates

10:00–12:00 CET

### Oxford Debate part 1, introduction, examples and setting up the activity (required active participation)

Facilitated by Max Gede, political educator

12:00–13:00 CET

### Break

13:00–14:00 CET

### Oxford Debate: execution of the Debate (required active participation)

## Details

# 5 December 2024

10.00 – 11.30 CET

### Webinar: diversity management in local areas.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the local area with examples from Local Action Groups and municipalities in Europe on diversity management.

*Under the patronage of the Human Rights Cities Foundation (tbc)*

## Description

The webinar will provide an introduction to the topics of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). We will begin with a reflection on personal identity through the lens of the **Wheel of Power**. The discussion will encompass the intersectionality of identities and will explore the benefits of diversity. Additionally, we will examine the needs associated with inclusion and the distinction between equality and equity in the context of building social justice. The objective of this workshop is to enhance understanding of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), particularly at the level of local policies. The presenter will introduce the key elements of the human rights framework, in accordance with the recommendations of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

We will focus on Foundations, Structures, and Tools to systematically trace the process of implementing the Human Rights Framework. We will also consider what qualifies a city to be designated as [a City of Human Rights](#). The concluding discussion will focus on addressing the challenges faced by webinar participants, as well as exchanging best practices in the area of social inclusion. We will also discuss participatory processes aimed at engaging local communities in the design of public spaces and explore networking opportunities to enhance inclusion efforts.

## Presenter

Eliza Gaust - Graduate in Cultural Studies, Trainer in the area of DEI [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion] and anti-discrimination initiatives. She has been active for many years in the field of equal treatment and human rights. She gained experience in public institutions, non-governmental organizations, local government, and by collaborating with the business sector. For many years, she worked at the Marek Edelman Dialogue Center and later served as the Plenipotentiary of Equality Policy under the Mayor of Łódź. Since 2013, she has been coordinating the Living Library in Łódź. She co-founded the Łódź of Diversity Coalition, bringing together individuals from minority groups and those with migration experiences living in Łódź. Graduate of

the Flying University of Human Rights and the Ashoka course & DEI Learning Journey."

In the last part we will hear from the Municipality of Irschen (Austria) and LAG Prealpi e Dolomiti (Italy).

## Project Partners of GroundUp will share insights about:

1. Is your municipality or Local Action Groups engaged in equality and inclusion initiatives? If so, how would you describe the level of this engagement?
2. What challenges do you encounter in your work for Human Rights?
3. Are you familiar with the concept of the Human Rights-based Approach as defined by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights?
4. Would you like to share best practices from your area of work?

## Why join?

### Gain practical Tools for local policies

Learn how to implement Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) strategies at the local level. The webinar will provide actionable frameworks and tools aligned with the Human Rights Framework, helping municipalities and Local Action Groups strengthen their inclusion efforts.

### Exchange best practices

Connect with peers from across Europe to discuss successful approaches to diversity management and social inclusion. Share challenges and solutions from your work and gather inspiration to enhance equality initiatives in your local area.

### Expert Guidance on DEI Principles

Benefit from insights shared by Eliza Gaust, a seasoned DEI trainer with experience across public institutions, NGOs, and local government. Gain a deeper understanding of DEI principles, intersectionality, and the balance between equality and equity in building inclusive communities.

12.00 – 13.30 CET Panel discussion:: European citizenship and education.

### GroundUp on the rights of EU citizens: free travel, living, working. Rights of EU citizens & the role of education.

*Under the patronage of ECIT Foundation, Brussels*

Key panelists:

- Alicja Pacewicz - Civic Education Center, Warsaw

- Monika Slaninova - Rural Youth Parliament, Slovakia
- Tony Venables - ECIT Foundation, Brussels
- European Youth Parliament, Berlin (tbc)

Moderator:

- Joanna Kopacka, Connection:Berlin

The participants will include educators, youth leaders, public officials, students, and civic activists. This panel discussion aims to empower participants to incorporate EU citizenship themes into classrooms, youth work, and activism. They will explore mechanisms like the European Citizens' Initiative, European Youth Parliaments, and the role of education in shaping the EU system, with a special focus on the "Teach Me Europe" initiative. The session will cover various citizen engagement and participation opportunities accessible to both residents of major cities and those in smaller, peripheral areas.

## Why join?

- Understand EU citizens' rights:
- Learn how to teach the freedoms EU citizens enjoy—travel, work, and study across Europe—and inspire young people to fully grasp these daily rights.
- Engage with the European Citizens' Initiative
- Discover "Teach Me Europe" demanding EU-wide citizenship education
- Access resources and network
- Connect with experts from European Youth Parliament Berlin, Civic Education Center Warsaw, and more to gain tools, resources, and inspiration to make EU citizenship a core part of your work

Check: European Citizens Initiative "Teach me Europe" demanding European citizenship education for all: <https://ecit-foundation.eu/citizenship-education-our-proposal/>. Civic Education Center in Poland: <https://ceo.org.pl>

**Alicja Pacewicz** is the Co-founder of the Center for Civic Education. Member of the board and vice-president of the Foundation in the years 1994-2018. Originator and leader of the "Szkoła z klasą" program. She develops educational programs, textbooks for students, lesson plans and guides for teachers, programs and training materials. She edits publications issued by the CEO. She conducts training for teachers and trainers. In 2011, she was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta for her outstanding contribution to building a civil society in Poland after 1989. She believes in citizens' democracy, wise education and the power of common sense.

**Monika Slaninová** is a project coordinator and manager of Europe Direct Banskobystrický Region with extensive experience in the field of rural development, civic engagement, and youth work. She coordinated several international projects through the Erasmus+ program and other initiatives aimed at sustainable development. She worked on the Horizon 2020 PoliRural project,

where she contributed to the creation of the document "Vision for More Attractive Rural Areas," which should become a binding document for the Slovak government in the future. He also actively participates in the promotion of the Rural Pact in Slovakia. She is a member of several NGOs, an ambassador of the European Citizens initiative, and is currently working/learning within the Democracy Reloading, Europe Goes Local, and European Youth Village programs.

**Tony Venables** is the Founder of ECIT – a foundation working on European Citizenship. He started his career as a European civil servant, before heading up the consumer group BEUC (European Bureau of Consumer Unions) and setting up ECAS (European Citizen Action Service). He is the author of the book *Piecing Together Europe's Citizenship*.

**Joanna Kopacka** is a Program Coordinator in the Engaging Central Europe (ECE) initiative at the German Marshall Fund, which combines civil society support with analytical and research work on political developments in Central and Eastern Europe. Her work focuses on democratic backsliding and innovative approaches to mobilization and civic responses to populism across the region. Before joining GMF, Joanna worked at the intersection of civic engagement, human rights, and democratic accountability with several nonprofit organizations. Most recently, at Investigate Europe, an international cooperative of investigative journalists, and WeMove Europe, an organization fostering citizen-driven politics and community organizing across the continent, including through the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI).

## 17 January 2024

Internal meeting of the international partners of the GroundUp project, accompanied by their close stakeholders and youth. Active participation is required throughout the day. This debate will encourage participants to think critically about both the advantages and limitations of EU citizenship rights and how they impact real lives, and solidify their understanding of diversity policies, and participation mechanisms, while also thinking about how these can be applied or further explored individually.

Facilitator: Max Gede, political educator

The motion: "This House believes that EU citizenship rights established by the Maastricht Treaty are sufficient to guarantee the inclusion and protection of all EU citizens across member states"

If you are not a part of the GroundUp project, but you are interested to learn how the Oxford Debate in practice and you would like to join us on, email: [malgorzata.wochowska@gmail.com](mailto:malgorzata.wochowska@gmail.com) (Gosia).

Team Connection: Berlin and supporters:

- Moderation: Joanna Kopacka, Eliza Gauza, Max Gede
- Graphics: Anna Krenz
- Technical support: Martyna Urbanczyk
- General management: Gosia Wochowska