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Lead by Nature newsletter 5th issue

a material carefully crafted by the European Lead by Nature Network (ELNN) team

Long story short

The summer of 2025 is coming in strong with a lot of new Erasmus+ projects that continue to shape the current world. We believe in the butterfly effect and the impact a small workshop with 10 people can have on the EU and the worldwide youth. It's about consistency.



It takes all of us.

In this issue, you'll read about:

- On-going projects of the member organizations
- Our new network members
- ELNN International Summit in Spain



impact Assemble!

Youth Leading Change in Brasov



Since October 2024, a group of 15 teens –whom we lovingly call schimbă-lume or world-changers–have joined thier forces to create the UrbanAct Impact Club in Braşov.

Not to brag, but... we're pretty proud to be the creators of the first-ever IMPACT Club coordinated by an NGO!

But wait–what is an IMPACT Club?

Originating from the New Horizons Foundation, IMPACT Clubs are traditionally school-based initiatives that give students the opportunity to grow, lead, and get involved in shaping their communities. These clubs now exist all around the world–and, as of October 4th, they've taken root in our very own community hub at iEL.

Since their founding, the UrbanAct Impact Club has already made waves.

Here's what they've accomplished so far:

- 🍲 Community Picnic: Bringing together over 80 participants, the team organized a fun, inclusive event in nature–complete with delicious food, games, and great company.
- 🐾 The Purrfect Match – Pet Adoption Fair: In collaboration with the Happy Tails Animal Shelter, their first official project attracted around 60 people, featured hands-on crafting workshops, and helped build bonds between people and potential future pets.

The Circle of Security

Supporting Parents, Nurturing Families



There's no such thing as a perfect parent, but you can absolutely be the best parent in the world for your child.

That's the spirit behind the Circle of Security program, where 28 parents –each navigating different stages of parenthood, from toddlers to teens –have come together to grow, learn, and support one another.

Because let's be honest: there's no general recipe for parenting. Every child comes with their own experiences and challenges. And let's not forget—you're also parenting your child for the very first time. It's okay not to have all the answers right away. 😊

The sessions of the Circle of Security brought together 28 incredible parents who opened up, connected, and began exploring how to become the strongest, most secure version of themselves—the version their children truly need. 🧠 ♀

The program's goal is simple, yet powerful: to create a safe and trusting space for parents to develop emotionally, share openly, and discover ways to build nurturing, secure environments for their children to thrive.

This initiative is part of the "Open Hearts – Circle of Security at Home" project, launched and developed by the New Horizons Foundation, and integrated into the wider "Heart-to-Heart Conversations" campaign, proudly supported by Pepco Romania.



Educators Lab

Your platform for high-impact session tools



Whether you're leading a training, a coaching session, or a youth workshop, Educators Lab is here to help you deliver with clarity and confidence.

💡 What is Educators Lab?

Think of it as your personal Google for facilitation. A smart platform where you can quickly find the exact tools and methods you need to boost the impact of your sessions.

👤 Who is it for?

For anyone who teaches or facilitates—educators, trainers, coaches, mentors, youth workers—basically anyone helping others learn and grow.

🔍 What can you find inside EduLab?

- ✓ Icebreakers & Energizers
- ✓ Coaching & Mentoring Tools
- ✓ Team Building Activities
- ✓ Reflection & Feedback Methods

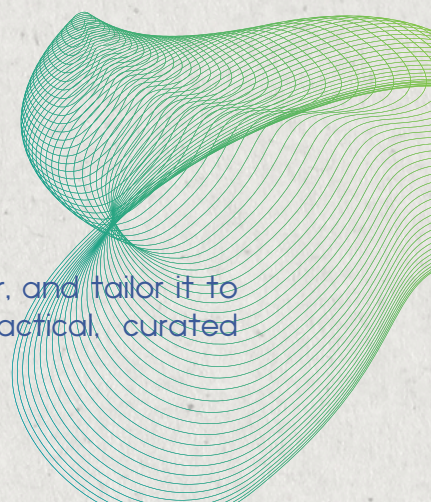
🎯 Why Educators Lab?

Because you can search by the type of activity you want to deliver, and tailor it to the topic of your session. No more endless browsing—just practical, curated content that fits your needs.

🔔 Want to be one of the first to try the platform?

Stick around—we're getting ready to launch EduLab soon!

👉 Follow @innoedulab if you're a trainer, coach, mentor, or youth worker—and be the first to know when EduLab goes live!



Youth Community – Local Youth, Leading Local Change



In Romania, InnoEduLab launched the Youth Community, a group of motivated teens from Braşov who chose to get involved not just as participants, but as active contributors to the organization's mission.

🎓 Study Hub – Designed by students, for students, this series offered guidance on career exploration, final exams, and tips for transitioning into university life.

🌱 Garden Talks – A TEDx-style event where young people shared personal stories, encouraged peer learning, and empowered one another through honesty and inspiration.

🌍 Intercultural Marathon – A vibrant event that celebrated diversity through art, fashion, and food, building bridges across cultures and communities.

This is just the beginning. With the Youth Community, we're not just working for young people—we're working with them. And they continue to show us that when youth take the lead, meaningful change follows.

Community Living Lab – Shaping your community



The Community Living Lab invites young people to become agents of change in their community! Through training in Active Citizenship and Entrepreneurial Discovery, we encourage them to identify local problems and develop innovative solutions.

Besides the workshops on emotional and creative skills, teamwork and leadership, we launched a writing program with fonduri-structurale.ro for young entrepreneurs. The project teams created amazing project proposals and other entrepreneurs of all ages took part in a 3 days Bootcamp focused on funding and design thinking.

The final projects will be eligible for multiple funds from the local to the ESC ones.

To end the project graciously we gathered everything we have learned from it and created the [Community Living Lab Guide](#).

SEEN

Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystems Network



What if AI could help you start your business?

What if it could evaluate the potential impact of your startup idea? That's the bold mission behind SEEN – Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystems Network, a dynamic Erasmus+ project co-funded by the EU.

On November 21–22, the project officially launched during an inspiring kick-off meeting hosted by a partner university in Varna, Bulgaria.

SEEN brings together:

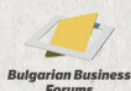
🏛️ 3 universities and 🌍 5 NGOs across Europe, working at the intersection of education, technology, and social innovation.

🚀 What SEEN Aims to Do:

- Develop an AI-based system to support entrepreneurial development
- Train educators to identify and nurture entrepreneurial potential
- Use AI to assess startup ideas and forecast their impact

Over the next two years, SEEN will explore how generative AI can transform entrepreneurship education and open doors for the next generation of changemakers.

We already had a SEEN Entrepreneurship Course @ Braşov and the SEEN Innovation Camp @ Varna in which participants explored startup fundamentals, collaborated in teams, discovered practical AI tools for business, and developed project ideas. Through hands-on workshops and a startup competition, they refined their skills in business planning, innovation, and pitching—guided by real-life stories and expert insights. The experience blended learning, creativity, and action, setting the stage for the next generation of social entrepreneurs.



InnerWorlds – Understanding Adolescent Mental Health Through a Mobile Game



How can we better understand what young people are going through? We're developing an innovative mobile video game designed not just to engage, but to support, educate, and empower youth to better understand their own mental health.

Running over 30 months, InnerWorlds brings together young people, parents, educators, and psychologists to co-create a game that reflects the inner struggles of adolescence—while also offering real tools for awareness and resilience.

Among other results the game will be tested and improved through feedback from young players themselves, ensuring it remains grounded in their realities and voices.

With InnerWorlds, we're not just designing a game—we're building a safe space for reflection, dialogue, and growth.

Intergenic – Learning from all ages for all ages



The Intergenic project is all about bringing generations together to learn from each other, connect across age divides, and support Europe's twin transitions toward a greener and more digital future.

Focusing on intergenerational learning, knowledge exchange, and joint actions, Intergenic has enabled partners across Europe to host interactive workshops with both local seniors and youth. These sessions became vibrant spaces where participants openly discussed challenges facing their communities—from environmental issues to social cohesion—and collaboratively brainstormed practical solutions.

Some inspiring ideas emerged from these workshops, including a recycling app designed to make sustainable habits easier for all ages, and the creation of an intergenerational community space where young and old can share skills, stories, and mutual respect.

By fostering dialogue and cooperation, Intergenic is helping to build stronger communities where all generations are valued, empowered, and ready to face the future together.

Bridging Generations – Because Your Old Man Has Feelings Too



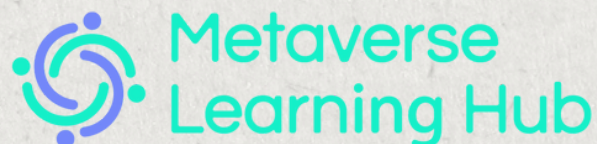
Bridging Generations is a bold and heartfelt EU-funded project that aims to connect people across age gaps through a shared human trait: emotions.

At the core of the project lies one simple belief: emotional intelligence (EI) can be learned at any age—because emotions don't age, people do. By creating intergenerational learning spaces, the project encourages young and older adults to better understand each other and themselves through empathy, reflection, and open conversation.

Through workshops, resources, and community events, Bridging Generations is working to challenge age-related stereotypes, promote emotional wellbeing, and use emotional intelligence as a tool for social inclusion. The project highlights the emotional complexity of all generations—from the enthusiasm and restlessness of youth to the quiet wisdom and vulnerabilities of old age.

Metaverse Learning Hub

Digital and human skills



The Metaverse Learning Hub is a forward-thinking initiative focused on empowering youth workers and policymakers with practical, evidence-informed tools to enhance the development of both digital and human skills in young people. With youth employability at the heart of the project, the Hub aims to provide structured guidance and innovative learning resources that address the evolving demands of the labor market.

The following key resources are freely available on the project's official platform:

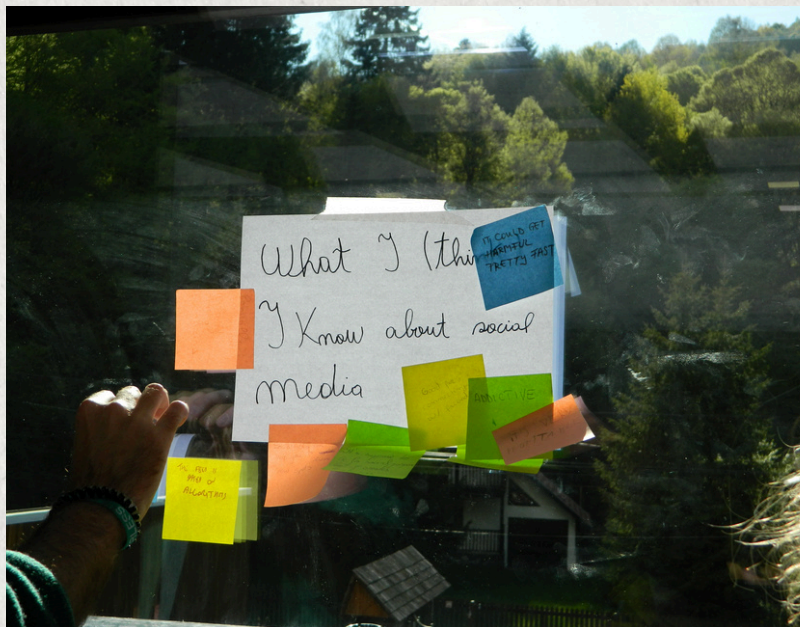
[Metaverse Learning Hub Results](#)

- Handbook for Youth Workers – A practical guide for developing youth's digital and human skills.
- Immersive Metaverse Game – An interactive digital experience for skill-building in virtual environments.
- Card Game on Human & Digital Skills – A physical tool for game-based learning in offline settings.



Digital Life Skills

Surfing the Digital world safely



DIGITAL LIFE SKILLS

The Digital Life Skills (DLS) project is empowering young people to build confidence, safety, and purpose in their digital lives. As online spaces become more central to how we learn, work, and connect, DLS provides a fresh approach to ensure youth are prepared—not just as users of technology, but as responsible and empowered digital citizens.

DLS Course for Educators & Youth Workers

- A new curriculum and teaching methodology focused on digital safety, well-being, identity, and productivity. The course equips educators to guide youth in building a positive relationship with the digital world

Interactive Discord Community

- A moderated space for young people, educators, and specialists encouraging peer learning and engagement through discussions and events it makes digital learning fun, social, and youth-friendly

Curated Resource Database

- A growing library of tools, lesson plans, guides, and multimedia content. It is designed to support both independent learning and structured education. It will be free and accessible for educators, youth workers, and learners and will include best practices, methodologies, and real-world case studies

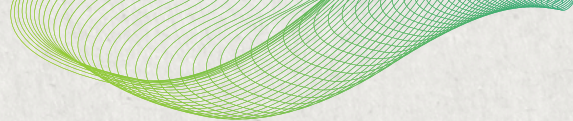


Center for Social
Innovation



casa da juventude
amarante





KEN

ESC volunteers in Romania



Thirteen volunteers from around the world came together to create the new generation of KEN (Keep Education Non-formal) to bring learning beyond the classroom and into the heart of the local community. United by a shared belief in the power of non-formal education, these volunteers created inclusive, creative, and empowering experiences for young people and neighbors alike.

What They Did

- DeFo Sessions in Local Schools & Community Events: Teaching youth about EU opportunities and the benefits of non-formal learning
- Intercultural Exchanges: Bringing different parts of the world together in one room—right in your neighborhood spaces
- Cooking Nights: Sharing recipes, cultures, and traditions from around the globe
- Skill-Building Sessions: Including Spanish lessons, coding classes, and public speaking workshops
- Creative Crafting Workshops: Featuring Bangladeshi embroidery, clay art, and tote bag decoration

Though they came from across the globe, the KEN volunteers shared one mission: to inspire and empower through non-formal education. By engaging directly with the local community, they demonstrated how meaningful learning can happen anywhere—and belong to everyone. They left behind the Zine, created by them as a testimonial of their experience here.



EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS



Roes & Hopeland Greece



🌱 YEBEC: Inspiring Environmental Action

Youth Engagement: Beyond the Classroom (YEBEC) is all about giving youth workers the tools to turn environmental concern into environmental action. Through an innovative blend of non-formal education, values-based learning, and language immersion, YEBEC helps young people aged 13–30 engage deeply with sustainability issues. The newly launched YEBEC methodology—tested in schools and now available as [a free digital booklet](#)—is packed with practical activities to spark real-world environmental impact.

🗣️ ChatJOB: AI for Youth Careers

ChatJOB is bringing AI into the hands of young job seekers—especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The project has created an AI-powered chatbot that offers real-time, personalized feedback on CVs, cover letters, and interview prep. Youth workers are also being trained to better support career guidance using these new digital tools.

🧑‍🌈 DESIRE: Reclaiming Bodies, Voices, and Identity

DESIRE is a powerful youth exchange that brought together 36 young people from seven countries to explore gender equality, empowerment, and body awareness. Set in the eco-community of Hopeland, Greece, the project used movement, art, and performance to challenge stereotypes, spark dialogue, and build inclusive spaces. Participants returned home ready to share what they've learned through local events, exhibitions, and ongoing community actions.

Onestin Community School Collaboration

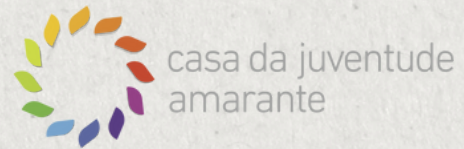


Onestin Youth Association had a meaningful impact on the community school, fostering trust and engagement through open conversations about hygiene and well-being. By discussing simple, practical habits, the children gained valuable knowledge that can contribute to improved health in their daily lives.

The presence of the NGO, also showed the students that their needs are seen and valued, helping to build confidence and a sense of inclusion. This kind of outreach will strengthen community bonds and promote long-term positive changes.

Casa da Juventude de Amarante

ESC Teams "Better Together"



11 participants from Poland, Spain, and Italy joined us for a month at Casa da Juventude in Amarante through an ESC Teams volunteering programme. During this month, they learned more about Portugal, the city of Amarante, the local community, and prepared a theatre play titled 'The World in a Bubble' - where we travelled through space and time.

They performed the play throughout 7 events, for our local partners including a kindergarten, 2 primary schools, 1 highschool, Senior University of Amrante, Disability Center and a Social Association, reaching a total of around 200 attendees!



FRAMEWORK association turns 5!



Thanks to those who believed in us and to those who will discover us along the way. In these 5 years we have carried out international projects and organized events, we have offered the opportunity to organizations from all over Europe (and beyond!) to get to know each other and collaborate – the results obtained are the result of the contributions of all the members, partners and collaborators of Framework.

BUILDING BRIDGES PROJECT - Virtual exchanges between young people from different cultures

On June 3rd and 4th, we participated in the first meeting of the BUILDING BRIDGES project. The project aims to create a virtual community among young people from the 6 participating countries (Romania, Italy, Cyprus, Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania) to foster the development of critical skills and the ability to collaborate and communicate with people from other cultures.

In July, our trainers will participate in a training course, in Tanzania, to learn how to manage virtual exchanges between the young people involved. In this regard, we are looking for associations, schools and young people interested in participating in the exchanges scheduled for next year. Contact us to find out more!



FRAMEWORK association turns 5!



We are partners in 2 projects aimed at creating a network to support women of all ages to improve their skills and increase satisfaction in what they do - or to look for new stimuli to do something new.

In particular, ELEVATE will be responsible for creating a program to help women with a business idea, while MINDFULher aims to offer a path to manage stress through mindfulness techniques.

Thanks to these projects, starting from October, we will launch a program aimed at helping young women to strengthen their skills to better face professional life.

New International Networking event

The 15th of November we will organize our annual international networking event. The event has 2 main aims: get to know partners and plan new projects or initiatives together.

The event is divided into 3 main sections: presentation of current projects and activities, presentation of a project idea to be developed with the participant and co-design the ideas that have been presented.

More information soon!

ENHANCE Project: Building Skills for Association Operators

On May 22–23, we welcomed partners from Morocco, Jordan, and Egypt for the ENHANCE project, focusing on boosting the impact of civil society initiatives. FRAMEWORK provided a tailored course on project management, soon available in Italian and Arabic.

Next, our team will join a training in Morocco on restorative justice—a method to resolve community conflict and promote social innovation. Workshop materials will be published by year's end in Italian, English, and Arabic.

Բարեկ! / Barev!

Meet INEDNET from Armenia!



INEDNET unites people and professionals who have experience of 5-10 years in the field of media production, youth work and non-formal education in Armenia and abroad. The organisation is open for volunteers, young leaders, thinkers and activists, those who seek change and those who make change.

Our latest project is "MIL Clubs for Inclusion, which aims to empower and train young leaders from various regions of Armenia in Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and anti-discrimination strategies, help to establish and manage INEDNET local MIL Clubs in their communities, fostering a sustainable network to combat disinformation and promote inclusion. Here are the objectives:

- Organise an Online Training course to equip youth leaders with skills to identify disinformation, understand its role in spreading discrimination, and creating counter-narratives
- Establish and maintain MIL Clubs in each participant's community to engage local youth in weekly discussions, monitoring disinformation trends, and developing responses.
- Facilitate the creation of inclusive counter-narratives that promote fact-checking and media literacy.

مرحبا / Hallo!

Meet LaiaL from Berlin!



LaiaL is a non-profit organization for intercultural integration. We aim to create a platform where people of different backgrounds and migration histories come together to share values, art, culture, and education, and to create something new. LaiaL was founded by a team of both migrants, refugees, and non-migrants—mainly young people who wanted to show adults and politicians how we improve our own lives in the city. What we have in common is that we have established a balanced relationship with different cultures.

LaiaL's work oscillates between social and ecological issues. Sustainability in its many forms is an important component of our projects. Ecologically sustainable production, clean energy, increasing self-sufficiency, promoting organic gardens and agriculture, and recycling – these important principles contribute to community building and, at the same time, independence. We strive to find do-it-yourself solutions to problems arising from gaps in the regulatory system.

We understand social sustainability as the long-term promotion of equal opportunities, social participation of disadvantaged groups and mutual respect among all people, regardless of religion, gender, sexuality or ethnicity.

Hallo!

Meet Das Kombinat from Berlin!



The association “Das Kombinat e.V.” (Berlin, Germany) was founded in October 2024 by over 20 members who combine different backgrounds, perspectives and skills. Das Kombinat turns the tables by highlighting a creative, equal cooperation between socially marginalized people as a necessary pathway for the entire society, following the vision of a critical, conflict-capable, non-discriminatory, anti-patriarchal and just society in which all people can develop freely.

Since January 2025, Das Kombinat is implementing the empowerment project “PowerPeng” with and for young Roma and BIPOC people who use photography and film to explore their own worlds and identities, to express themselves and to communicate their own stories. Part of the project is a youth exchange with young Gitanos from Barcelona, including mutual visits in Spain and Germany.

For the future, many educational and artistic projects are planned, such as:

- an international training in “Sociocracy 3.0” with the Romanian partner “Innovation Education Lab”,
- a comic with and about people suffering from Long Covid,
- a collaborative theatre project THE PLAYGROUND, in which 12 interdisciplinary artists from 11 countries create three different theatre performances
- MEDUSA, a European project fostering circulation of contemporary theatre plays related to female and other oppressed identities.

Merhaba! Meet Koruncuk from Turkey!



Koruncuk Foundation (Türkiye Korunmaya Muhtaç Çocuklar Vakfı)

Since 1979, Koruncuk Foundation has been working to ensure that every child can grow up with love, safety, and equal opportunities where their rights are recognized and supported. Through its residential programs and family support program, Koruncuk empowers children—especially girls—to become confident, independent individuals who actively contribute to society.

They are now part of the ELNN family, learning european best practices in youth work and community management.





A New Way Forward: Embracing Sociocracy 3.0 in ELNN

Sociocracy 3.0 (S3) is a framework for collaborative decision-making, effective communication, and adaptive organizational development. It helps teams create more inclusive, resilient, and transparent ways of working.

Recently, the core team at ELNN embarked on an S3 learning journey. After several sessions with an experienced trainer, we began defining our initial domains to build ELNN's future business strategy:

- **Learning Domain:** Led by Linas Staršelskis (Efektas Group)
- **Research Domain:** Led by Mert Canturk (Puhu)
- **Funding Domain:** Led by Valeria Elia (Framework)

Each domain includes dedicated team members, but we need your input and energy. We invite you to connect with us, learn more, and get involved—because what we build, we build together.

If you're interested, email Chimène at chimene@innoedulab.eu



Reflecting on Our Journey and Looking Ahead

The Puhu team, alongside our member partners, is preparing the annual youth report. This year, we're taking a new approach by highlighting the impact of our work over the past three years—an opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made and the change we've created together.

Building on the momentum from last year's successful international summit in Brasov, Romania, we're thrilled to announce that planning is already underway for the 2025 summit in Andalucia, Spain. We look forward to gathering with you once again to learn, share, and co-create our future.

As we shape our next steps, we want your input. What themes, topics, or stories do you think we should focus on more? Your voice is essential in guiding our work forward.



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Thank you for reading our 5th ELNN newsletter!

Join the European Lead by Nature Network for more ERASMUS+ opportunities and non-formal education!



Connect with
us:



Wanna learn more about the
project? Go to our [website](#).

Thank you for reading this!

With appreciation,
The European Lead by Nature Network team

