

# CRITICAL CHANGE LAB

Democracy meets Arts



## Building Democratic Cultures through Creative and Narrative Practices

With rising polarization, identity politics, and a widening gap between liberalism and democracy, European democracy is in crisis. But young people aren't idle: [Eurobarometer Youth Survey 2021](#) shows that many see street politics as just as powerful – or more so – than voting. **Youth know it's time to act.**

## Critical ChangeLab Model for Democratic Pedagogy: Empowering youth to make a difference and co-build democracy

The Critical ChangeLab project offers an adaptable model for democratic learning. Our goal? To spark **democratic awareness and transformative action** through a new framework for Democratic Pedagogy. This Critical ChangeLab Model creates **dynamic learning spaces** where youth challenge injustices and shape visions for the future. Through hands-on Critical ChangeLabs, we use **creative, critical tools to support youth-led civic actions** that make a difference in everyday life.



## How are we reaching these goals?



- **Research:** We're **mapping democracy education trends** in 10 EU countries to gather robust national data. Our [Democratic Health Index](#) and [case studies](#) provide a powerful snapshot of democratic engagement.
- **Framework & Toolkit:** To make democratic learning accessible, we have developed a **flexible framework and toolkit** to bring Critical ChangeLabs into **formal and non-formal learning spaces** across Europe.
- **Implementing Critical ChangeLabs:** In 19 countries, **over 1,000 young people** will join Critical ChangeLabs, exploring their concerns about the future and deepening their connection to everyday democracy.
- **Evaluating Impact:** We are assessing how Critical ChangeLabs spark democratic engagement, informing our **policy and curriculum recommendations**.
- **Expanding Access:** Through our **MYCELIA youth outreach programme**, an **educator's handbook** (Nov 2025), and the **Massive Online Open Course** "Critical Thinking: Creative Technologies, Democracy & Youth" (Sept 2025), we're making the Critical ChangeLab Model accessible across Europe to youth and educators.

Want to stay up to date? **Subscribe to our [newsletter](#), join us on [LinkedIn](#) or follow [#CriticalChangeLab](#) on social media!**



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