# CRITICAL CHANGE LAB

## **Democracy meets Arts**

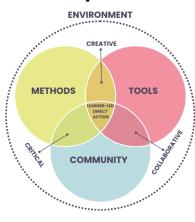


### **Building Democratic Cultures through Creative and Narrative Practices**

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 <u>mapping democracy education trends</u> in 10 EU countries to gather robust national data. Our <u>Democratic Health Index</u> and <u>case</u> studies provide a powerful snapshot of democratic engagement.
- Framework & Toolkit: To make democratic learning accessible, we have developed a <u>flexible framework and toolkit</u> 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 <u>newsletter</u>, join us on <u>LinkedIn</u> or follow #CriticalChangeLab on social media!