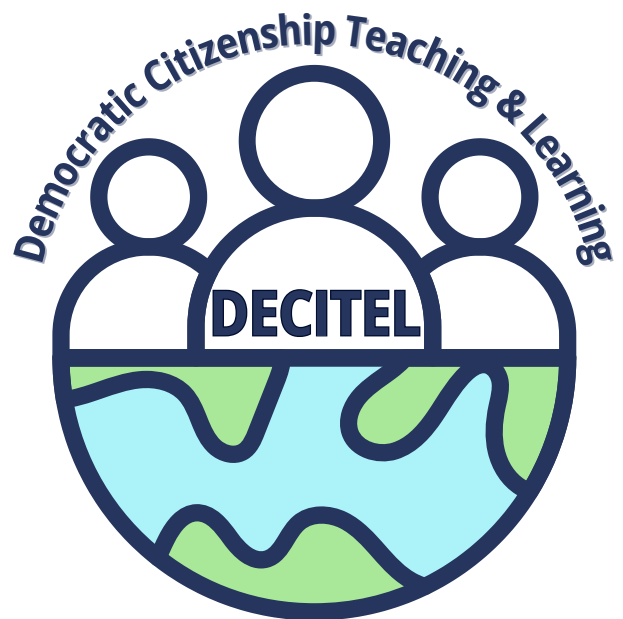


A DEEPER DIVE INTO THE DECITEL PROJECT

Newsletter #2





DECITEL is proud to introduce Local Learning Ecosystems!

A local learning ecosystem (LLE) brings together civil society organizations, local authorities, universities, schools, teachers, and engaged citizens to co-create inclusive, participatory learning initiatives. It contributes to DECITEL outputs with local stakeholders involved and actively supports the out-of-school dimension of citizenship education. The role of the LLE includes:

- supporting co-creation and exchange of practices
- promoting civic engagement,
- fostering social responsibility
- enhancing local capacity for citizenship education.

The desired future impact with LLEs is to create **“a model that embodies citizenship education in everyday social and institutional life.”**

Partners engage with LLEs to understand their needs, gather input, and build collaborative relationships. Based on the insights gathered, the project team will design a toolkit that provides resources, guidelines, and best practices for creating and maintaining LLEs. It will support the practical implementation of democratic citizenship education at the local level.

The aim is to provide a replicable framework that schools and communities can use to foster democratic citizenship education through collaborative, real-world learning experiences. These models will serve as examples and inspiration for other communities looking to establish their own LLE.



The Local Learning Ecosystem Campaign

The DECITEL communication group launched the “**Meet the Local Learning Ecosystem (LLE) of the Month**” campaign in April 2026. Each month, a partner interviews their local learning ecosystem representative, uncovering what LLE means for them and why it matters for the community.

The campaign started with **Bildungsgrätzl Verteilerkreis** from Austria, continued with **Join For Water** from Belgium, and **Sanremo Città di Pace** from Italy. Visit [DECITEL's Instagram](#) account to listen to the interviews!



The journey continues at full speed.



Partners' Meeting in Berlin

The **DECITEL** journey continued with a third transnational project meeting in Berlin, Germany, hosted by the DARE Network. From 11 to 13 March, 2026, partners convened to share the latest developments and discuss the next steps. The major outcome of the meeting was the design of **the prototype thematic learning paths**.



The workshop for learning paths aimed to explore how competencies could be tailored to different teacher profiles, while also consolidating a shared understanding of the priority areas and pedagogical approaches for DECITEL. Partners were divided into groups and explained their stances in a plenary discussion. Through these discussions, they reflected on the balance between knowledge acquisition, practical skills, and attitudinal development and moved towards identifying priority competence areas, deciding on the final four learning paths.

The Four Thematic Learning Paths

GROUP CONNECTED - Identity, Belonging and Democratic Citizenship

The focus is on strengthening teachers' capacity to foster a strong sense of belonging in learners—through diversity responsiveness, reflection on biases and positionality, and activities that support autonomy, relatedness, and competence.

GROUP DEPART - Democracy, Participation and Decision-Making

The focus is on a community participatory approach to democratic education, motivation of teachers, agency of pupils in participatory processes and tools for promoting and monitoring it, fostering dialogical spaces and sustainability.

Group COMPLEX - Understanding and Facilitating Complex Issues

The focus is on addressing complex and controversial issues through systems thinking, temporal analysis and multiperspectivity, by providing tools and activities to explore change over time, interconnected factors, uncertainty, different perspectives and the democratic dimensions of these issues.

GROUP CDCE - Critical Digital Citizenship Education

The focus is on understanding the societal and ethical impacts of digitalisation and AI, and fostering responsible, inclusive, and active digital citizenship.



Expanding the DECITEL journey

Civil Society Week 2026 in March

DECITEL partners - the Education Inspiring Peace Lab, European Parents Association, and the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions hosted a session “Educating Citizenship for Resilient Societies” at the Civil Society Week 2026. The crucial role of educators and the potential of a Teacher Academy to support them in empowering the next generation of active citizens was emphasized.

Bonn Workshop in March 2026

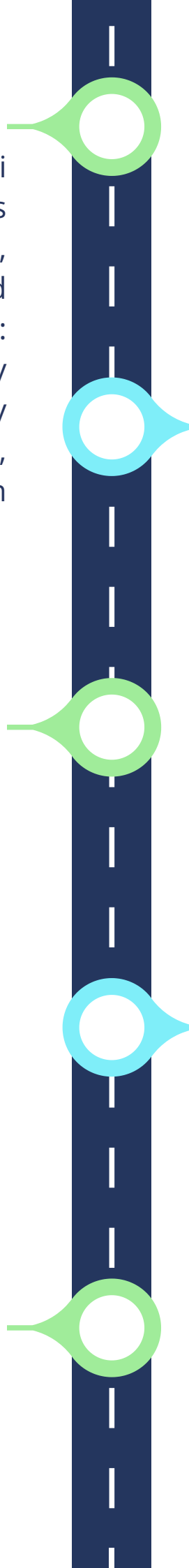
The partner - Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe, engaged with organisational leaders and educators in the field of non-formal citizenship education to discuss collaboration between non-formal citizenship education and higher education institutions in both initial and continuing teacher education. Recognising that the challenges and possible mitigation strategies vary across local learning ecosystems, participants welcomed DECITEL’s initiative to strengthen cooperation and foster professional exchange between non-formal and formal education.

DeepTech Connect 2026 in April

The University of Ioannina represented DECITEL at the DeepTech Connect 2026, highlighting the importance of civic education and the role of LLEs in building knowledge, skills, and core values for active and meaningful participation in society. The growing importance of digital citizenship was underlined at the conference as more aspects of civic life move online. Ensuring safe and responsible participation in digital communities and democratic processes was also stressed.

EUCEN 2026 Conference in June

Project coordinator Dr. Tamer Atabarut from Boğaziçi University presented key findings from the DECITEL Project's research with Local Learning Ecosystems in Istanbul, Türkiye, at the EUCEN 2026 Conference. The presentation was titled "Democratic Citizenship Education in the Age of Uncertainty: An Analysis through the DECITEL Project and Civil Society Experiences". The main finding concluded that civil society organizations are not just implementers but also innovators, content developers, and contributors to policy-making in democratic citizenship education.





**For more information on
the DECITEL project:**



Visit DECITEL's section on
the coordinator's website

Follow DECITEL's
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