

**PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release: 12-05-2022

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## **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH OF THE SDCE PROJECT: STUDENT'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN A DIGITAL WORLD**

***12-05-2022/ The Students as Digital Civic Engagers consortium is glad to announce the National and International launch of the SDCE project. National and International events will take place from May to July 2022 to present the project's achievements.***

The Students as Digital Civic Engagers (SDCE) consortium is organising National and International launch events, with the aim to increase higher education educators' and stakeholders' understanding of the need to empower students to become confident civic engagers making the most of digital technology available to them.

The first event, the Austrian National launch of the project, was organised by the University of Vienna on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Prof. Jeanette Hofmann (Berlin, Germany) was invited as keynote speaker to reflect on democracy and digitalisation, and students were invited to share about their engagement at the university. The next events will be organised:

- **In Tartu, Estonia** by the University of Tartu:
  - > On **May 26<sup>th</sup> 2022** at Ülikooli 20 for international participants
  - > On **June 1<sup>st</sup> 2022** at Ülikooli 20 for local participants
- **In Lisburn, UK** by Canice Consulting Limited, on **June 1<sup>st</sup> 2022** at the Lisburn Enterprise
- **Online**, by EUCEN, on **June 14<sup>th</sup> 2022** for international participants
- **In Braga, Portugal** by the University of Minho, on **July 4<sup>th</sup> 2022**

These events will not only present the project and its achievements, but they will also give participants the opportunity to explore, use and commit to using the project's resources within their own organisation. In addition, these launch events will give a voice to students and educators involved in digital civic engagement and invite them to reflect on their own experiences, and on the benefits of digital civic engagement.

These events are open to any interested participant, and especially higher education educators, teachers and stakeholders from higher education institutions, non-profit networks and/or umbrella organisations or publicly funded bodies with policy responsibility for education/higher education, but also and most importantly students.

All attendees will leave the event with an increased knowledge and understanding of the importance of civic engagement for students, and with a set of tools and resources ready to use to foster digital civic engagement within their own institutions:

- The Guide to Digital Civic Engagement which explores how DCE can be integrated at different levels of higher education institutions (HEIs).
- The Digital Civic Engagement Toolkit which provides practical guidance and tools for HEI educators wishing to incorporate digital civic engagement activities into their curricula or teaching strategies.
- The Digital Civic Engagement Open Educational Resources including a syllabus, learning objectives, lesson plans, assessment guides, and access to a variety of original teaching content and pedagogies on digital civic engagement.
- The Digital Civic Engagement MOOC, an open online learning course which provides students and staff with an additional space in which to develop their digital civic engagement skills in a user-friendly format.

All the details on the events and venues will be available on the [project website](#) and on social media: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#).