

**HALAN WE GROW**



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**21ST  
CENTURY  
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# WHAT ARE 21ST CENTURY SKILLS?

## Halan We Grow

Halan We Grow is a Euro-Mediterranean youth project that brings together young people, youth workers, and civil society organizations from the European Union and the MENA region. The project aims to strengthen civic engagement, social responsibility, and personal development by creating meaningful learning spaces rooted in EU values such as democracy, human rights, equality, and the rule of law.

Through cross-regional cooperation and peer learning, Halan We Grow supports young people in navigating complex social, digital, and political realities while empowering them to become active, informed, and responsible change-makers in their communities.

### What Are 21st-Century Skills?

21st-century skills are the knowledge, abilities, and attitudes people need to actively participate in today's rapidly changing world. Beyond technical or professional skills, they include critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, social responsibility, innovation, and digital awareness.

In the context of youth work and civic engagement, these skills are essential for understanding societal challenges, engaging constructively with others, and responding ethically to issues such as misinformation, inequality, exclusion, and shrinking civic space.

### The 21st-Century Skills Workshops

As part of the Halan We Grow project, a series of interactive, non-formal workshops were developed to explore 21st-century skills through the lens of EU values and real-life challenges. Each workshop focuses on a specific skill area and connects it to practical situations young people face in their personal lives, communities, digital environments, and civic spaces.

The workshops encourage active participation, reflection, dialogue, and experiential learning, allowing participants to learn from one another and from diverse regional perspectives.



# **DIGITAL (+MEDIA) LITERACY & AI**

## **EU VALUE: FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

As digital platforms increasingly shape communication, activism, learning, and work, young people need the ability to critically assess online content, protect their mental health, respect privacy, and make ethical decisions in digital environments. These skills are especially important in contexts where digital literacy frameworks and policies are still developing, and where online behavior can directly influence social cohesion, inclusion, and civic engagement.

### **WHAT WE DID DURING THE WORKSHOP**

The workshop was delivered using non-formal education methods, combining interactive activities, group discussions, and reflection.

Participants began with an icebreaker using emojis to share personal digital experiences and emotions connected to online life. Key concepts of digital ethics were introduced, including privacy and data protection, algorithmic bias, misinformation, filter bubbles, and digital inclusion.

Through case studies and small-group discussions, participants explored ethical challenges such as responding to misinformation, dealing with cyberbullying, and managing boundaries in digital activism. The session also addressed digital well-being, focusing on how digital habits affect mental health, attention, and relationships.

Participants were introduced to practical strategies for healthier digital behavior, such as setting screen-time boundaries, creating tech-free moments, and practicing short mindfulness exercises. The workshop ended with a group reflection and personal commitments to improve digital habits.



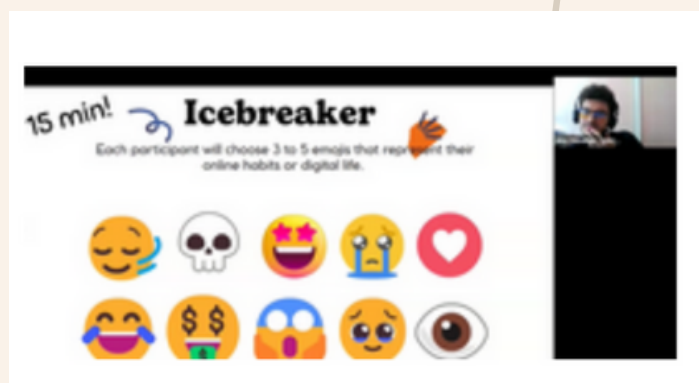
# DIGITAL (+MEDIA) LITERACY & AI

## EU VALUE: FREEDOM OF SPEECH

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

After the workshop, participants:

- Increased their understanding of digital ethics and responsible online behavior
- Developed greater awareness of how algorithms, misinformation, and digital environments influence perceptions and actions
- Strengthened their ability to make ethical decisions in challenging online situations
- Reflected on their own digital habits and their impact on mental health and well-being
- Gained practical tools to support digital mindfulness, emotional regulation, and healthier online boundaries
- Fostered a sense of shared responsibility and solidarity in creating more inclusive and ethical digital spaces



# CREATIVITY EU VALUE: HUMAN DIGNITY

Creativity is a key 21st-century skill that enables individuals to express ideas, solve problems, and imagine alternative futures. When linked to the EU value of human dignity, creativity becomes a powerful tool for promoting respect, inclusion, empathy, and self-expression.

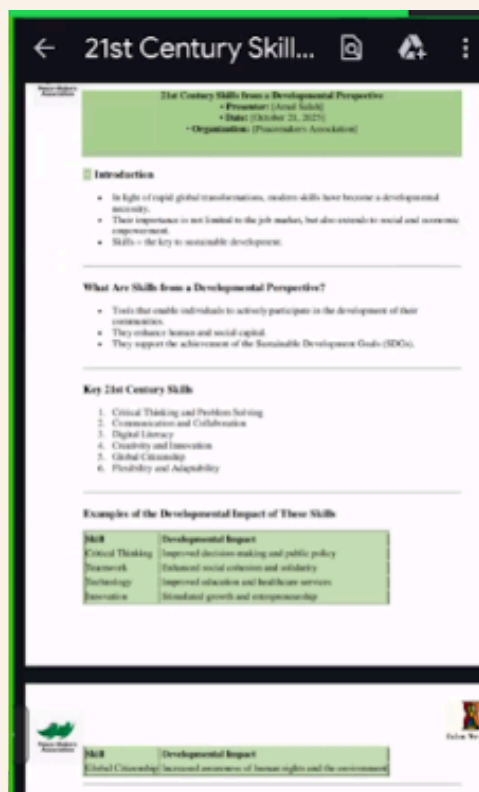
In diverse and digital societies, creative processes allow young people to explore identities, challenge stereotypes, and communicate experiences in ways that honor the inherent worth of every individual. Creativity rooted in human dignity supports democratic participation, social cohesion, and meaningful civic engagement.

## WHAT WE DID DURING THE WORKSHOP

The workshop used non-formal and creative learning methods to explore creativity as a means of self-expression and respect for human dignity.

Participants engaged in individual and group creative exercises, encouraging them to express ideas, emotions, and perspectives beyond words. Through guided reflection and discussion, they explored how creativity can challenge stereotypes, give voice to diverse experiences, and foster inclusion.

The session emphasized creating a safe and respectful space where all contributions were valued equally, reinforcing the connection between creative freedom and human dignity.



# CREATIVITY EU VALUE: HUMAN DIGNITY

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

After the workshop, participants:

- Understood creativity as a transversal 21st-century skill applicable to personal, social, and civic contexts
- Explored the link between creative expression and the EU value of human dignity
- Developed the ability to express ideas, emotions, and opinions in non-verbal and creative ways
- Strengthened self-confidence and self-awareness through creative reflection
- Practiced respecting diverse forms of expression and valuing all voices equally
- Increased empathy and openness toward different life experiences and perspectives
- Recognized creativity as a tool to challenge stereotypes and social exclusion
- Enhanced their capacity to contribute to safe, inclusive, and respectful group spaces
- Reflected on how creativity can support dialogue, participation, and democratic values
- Identified ways to use creativity in everyday life, youth work, education, and community initiatives
- Developed greater comfort with uncertainty, experimentation, and process-based learning
- Strengthened collaboration and mutual respect through shared creative activities



# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## EU VALUE: HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY / RULE OF LAW

Social responsibility is a core 21st-century skill that refers to the ability to act ethically, responsibly, and with awareness of the social impact of one's actions. In the media context, social responsibility is closely linked to the protection of human rights, the promotion of equality, and the safeguarding of the rule of law.

Responsible media plays a crucial role in democratic societies by ensuring freedom of expression, access to reliable information, fair representation of diverse social groups, and accountability of power. By understanding media systems and their influence, young people can contribute to more ethical, inclusive, and rights-based media environments.

## WHAT WE DID DURING THE WORKSHOP

The workshop introduced participants to the concept of social responsibility in media, with a focus on media's role in upholding human rights, equality, and democratic principles.

Participants explored the Media Pluralism Monitor framework and its four key domains—basic protection, market plurality, political independence, and social inclusiveness—to understand how media systems can either protect or undermine fundamental rights and the rule of law.

Through guided discussion and reflection, participants examined how socially responsible media initiatives and entrepreneurial approaches can address challenges such as misinformation, lack of representation, media concentration, and political influence.



# **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

## **EU VALUE: HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY / RULE OF LAW**

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After the workshop, participants:

- Understood social responsibility as a key competence in media and public communication
- Recognized the role of media in protecting human rights and freedom of expression
- Gained awareness of how media pluralism supports equality, inclusion, and democratic participation
- Became familiar with the Media Pluralism Monitor as a tool for assessing risks to media freedom
- Reflected on the impact of media ownership, political influence, and regulation on the rule of law
- Strengthened critical thinking toward misinformation, bias, and media power structures
- Identified the responsibility of media actors in representing diverse and marginalized groups
- Connected ethical media practices with accountability, transparency, and public trust
- Recognized youth participation as essential for fostering responsible and rights-based media ecosystems
- Developed a values-based perspective on media initiatives and social entrepreneurship



# INNOVATION SKILLS

## EU VALUE: HUMAN RIGHTS

Innovation is a key 21st-century skill for strengthening civil society and advancing human rights. In the context of social responsibility, innovation refers to the development of new tools, approaches, and strategies that help individuals and organizations respond to evolving social, political, and human rights challenges.

In both the EU and MENA regions, innovative practices support participation, transparency, accountability, and inclusion, enabling civil society actors to better protect fundamental rights and uphold the rule of law. Innovation in this field is not only technological, but also social and policy-driven, contributing to more resilient and responsive democratic systems.

## WHAT WE DID DURING THE WORKSHOP

The workshop introduced participants to the role of innovation in civil society and human rights work, with a comparative focus on EU and MENA contexts.

Participants explored different forms of innovation, including technological, social, and policy-based approaches, and examined how these are used to promote participation, transparency, and accountability. The session highlighted key legal and institutional frameworks supporting human rights, such as the European Convention on Human Rights, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, and regional mechanisms in the MENA region.

Through examples and discussion, participants reflected on real case studies related to digital rights, gender equality, refugee protection, and freedom of expression, as well as common challenges such as shrinking civic space and sustainability of initiatives.



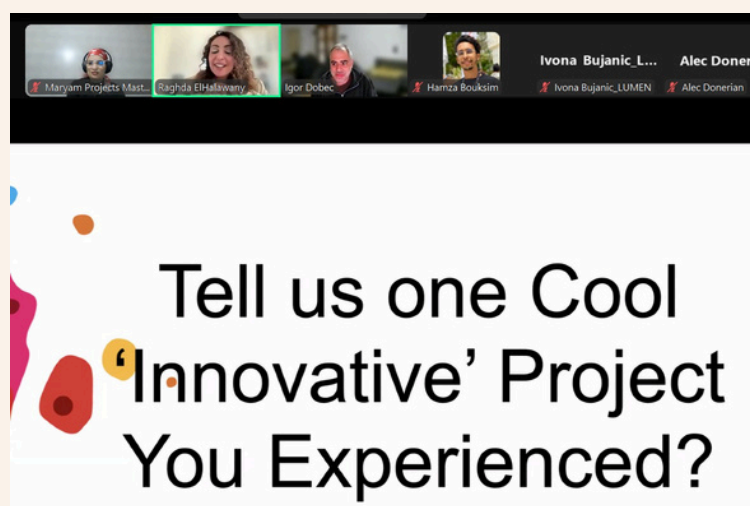
# INNOVATION SKILLS

## EU VALUE: HUMAN RIGHTS

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

After the workshop, participants:

- Understood innovation as a key competence in civil society and human rights work
- Recognized the role of innovation in strengthening social responsibility and democratic participation
- Gained insight into differences and similarities between EU and MENA civil society contexts
- Became familiar with key human rights frameworks in the EU and MENA regions
- Identified technological, social, and policy innovations used to protect and promote human rights
- Reflected on the role of civil society in supporting the rule of law and accountability
- Increased awareness of how innovation can address inequality, exclusion, and limited civic space
- Developed critical thinking around the challenges facing human rights initiatives
- Recognized the importance of cross-regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing
- Strengthened their ability to connect innovation with values-based, rights-focused action



# COLLABORATION & CO-CREATION

## EU VALUE: DEMOCRACY

Collaboration is a fundamental 21st-century skill that enables individuals to work together effectively, respectfully, and toward shared goals. When linked to the EU value of democracy, collaboration becomes a practical expression of democratic principles such as participation, equality, inclusion, and shared decision-making. Democratic collaboration goes beyond efficiency—it ensures that all voices are heard, diverse perspectives are valued, and responsibility is shared. In teams, youth work, and civic initiatives, collaborative skills support trust, social cohesion, and active democratic participation.

### WHAT WE DID DURING THE WORKSHOP

The workshop explored collaboration as a democratic practice, connecting teamwork with the values of participation and shared responsibility.

Participants reflected on how democracy translates into everyday collaboration and were introduced to the concept of democratic collaboration, emphasizing equal voice, mutual respect, and collective decision-making. They identified their own interaction styles through a short self-assessment and reflected on how different styles influence group dynamics.

Through discussion and reflection, participants explored how awareness of communication styles can improve teamwork, prevent exclusion, and strengthen trust in group settings.



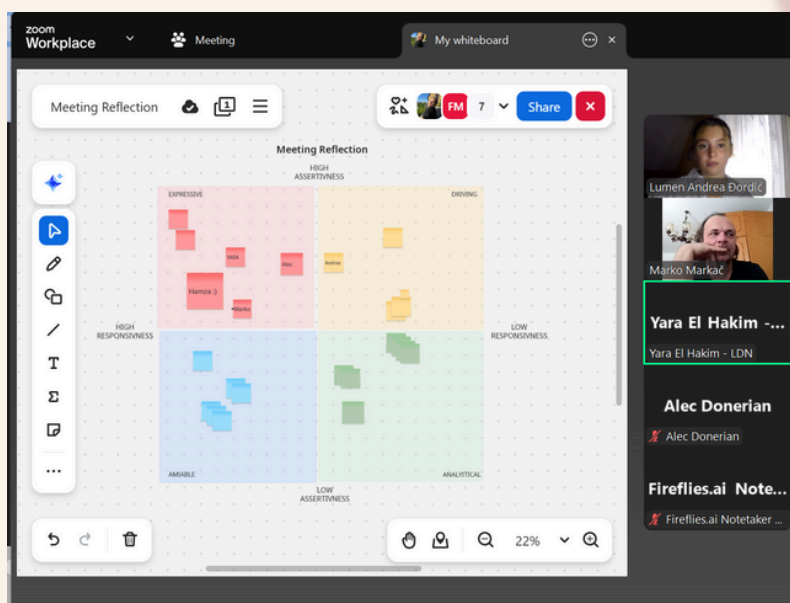
# COLLABORATION & CO-CREATION

## EU VALUE: DEMOCRACY

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

After the workshop, participants:

- Understood collaboration as a practical expression of democratic values
- Recognized the importance of equal participation and shared decision-making in teams
- Gained awareness of different interaction and communication styles
- Reflected on their own collaboration strengths and challenges
- Developed greater respect for diverse working styles and perspectives
- Strengthened active listening and constructive communication skills
- Learned how democratic collaboration can prevent conflict and exclusion
- Increased their ability to adapt communication approaches within teams
- Recognized trust, flexibility, and communication as key elements of effective collaboration
- Identified ways to apply democratic collaboration in project work, youth work, and daily communication





**Halan We Grow**

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FOR READING**



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