

Empowering Young People: Local Debates with Real Impact

As part of the European project *YouthEUVision – Empowering YOUth for a Stronger Europe*, the Municipality of Egaleo implemented a series of experiential workshops and youth debates, giving young people in the city a platform to express their views and shape proposals for their future.

From **25–30 May 2025**, young participants met in person to discuss important issues that concern them, develop arguments, and vote on the changes they consider necessary in their local community.

What took place: Six local youth debates

Each debate lasted 45 minutes and included an introduction, initial statements from both sides, dialogue and argument exchange, audience questions, and a final vote. The topics were selected based on the real needs and experiences of the youth in the city.

- The **first debate** focused on **Community Engagement**, where young people proposed the creation of a youth municipal council and a digital participation platform.
- The **second debate** addressed **Youth Employment and Opportunities**, highlighting the need to strengthen youth entrepreneurship and foster collaboration between schools and local stakeholders to provide more practical experience opportunities.
- The **third debate** centered on **Education and School Support**, emphasizing the value of life-skills education and psychological support within the school environment.
- In the **fourth debate**, **Mental and Physical Health**, young people stressed the importance of prevention through education, free access to wellness activities, and having psychologists in every school.
- The **fifth debate** focused on **Environment and Sustainable Development**, with proposals for green mobility, recycling initiatives, and tree-planting activities led by student and youth groups.
- Finally, the **sixth debate** explored **Culture, Identity, and Inclusion**, with ideas such as youth cultural festivals, programs promoting local heritage, and youth-generated content.

The results of the debates — from a total of **36 participants** — contribute directly to the project deliverables, ensuring that the voices of Egaleo’s youth are represented in the broader European landscape.

Why is this important?

The young people demonstrated that they:

- have strong opinions and want to be heard
- can propose realistic and actionable solutions
- aspire to have an active role in decision-making

The Municipality of Egaleo is committed to continuing its support for youth by transforming these proposals into meaningful actions with consistency and continuity.

For more information, visit the project website: <https://youthenvision.eu/>