

# Digital Participation

**Digital participation** refers to the use of digital tools to foster civic engagement and involvement in governance. It encompasses a wide range of approaches that enable individuals and communities to interact with public institutions, share ideas, and influence policy through digital platforms. By facilitating access and interaction, digital participation strengthens democratic processes and helps counter disinformation. It is not just a technical capability; it is a democratic practice that empowers people to shape their societies.



**Digital literacy** has become an important factor for all groups of society to participate in democratic life and for giving them the opportunity to be active citizens who fully benefit from public or other services and processes. In today's digital society, literacy is more than the ability to read and write, it's the key to **active citizenship**. Digital literacy empowers individuals to engage in democratic processes, access public services, and navigate online responsibly.

In the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the ability to critically evaluate information has become essential for democratic participation. Disinformation is increasingly multimodal, complex, and difficult to recognize without specific AI literacy skills.

The growing use of AI in decision-making and governance processes may enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of public administration. Nevertheless, it also carries significant risks, such as reduced transparency and the possibility that data or algorithmic biases influence decisions. A key question, therefore, is how citizens can understand, and influence use of the algorithms that shape public decision-making.

## Questions to ponder:

1. What digital skills are needed to be an active citizen?
2. How can we critically assess information and recognize disinformation?
3. How to create a culture where everyone can be encouraged to participate?
4. How to increase learners' digital agency?

## For references and more information:

- Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes digital strategy Implementation guidelines Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps programmes digital strategy Implementation guidelines <https://op.europa.eu/s/Aans>
- Council conclusions on the contribution of education and training to strengthening common European values and democratic citizenship (C/2023/1419) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1419/oj/eng>
- SALTO Participation and Information <https://participationpool.eu/et/resource/trends-in-digital-participation>
- European year of digital citizenship education 2025 <https://www.coe.int/dce>