CivicDesign4HER

NEWSLETTER 1

"Engaging Women Migrant Communities in Civic Engagement through the Systemic Design Framework"

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

We are pleased to announce CivicDesign4HER, a new Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership project bringing together organizations throughout Europe with the goal of empowering migrant women via civic action and systems design. There is a clear reason why this is necessary – migrant women tend not to be represented within civic society, yet they have much to offer in terms of experience, thought, and perspective.

Our mission is simple but powerful: To support migrant women in becoming active co-creators of inclusive, democratic societies.

The "CivicDesign4HER" project aims to: bridge the gap that exists in adult education provision with regards to dedicated programmes fostering systemic design for the inclusion and active co-creative participation of women migrants; motivate communities towards more inclusive practices that will encompass those migrant women as equal members of the community; contribute towards measurable change in practices, and policies of local stakeholders towards women migrants.

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Objectives and approach

CivicDesign4HER focuses on:

- Strengthening civic participation and inclusion
- Empowering migrant women as agents of change
- Supporting educators with innovative tools and methodologies
- Building inclusive local communities and learning spaces

Our Approach: Systemic Design for Civic Engagement

What makes this project unique?

We use a Systemic Design Framework, which means:

- Looking at challenges as interconnected
- Co-creating solutions with communities
- Moving beyond isolated actions toward long-term impact

This approach ensures migrant women are not just participants—but co-designers of solutions that affect their lives

Our main target groups are:

- Migrant women (30+), especially those facing barriers to participation
- Adult educators & migrant support workers
- Local stakeholders & communities

Through this project, participants will gain:

- Confidence and civic awareness
- Skills for participation and collaboration
- Opportunities to shape their communities

What We Are Developing:

Over the next 24 months, CivicDesign4HER will create:

- A Methodology Handbook for educators
- A Training Programme (with blended learning)
- A board game & digital game on civic engagement
- An interactive e-learning platform with digital badges
- Living Labs as local learning spaces
- A practical Action Kit (toolkit) for implementation

KICK-OFF MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – HANNOVER, GERMANY

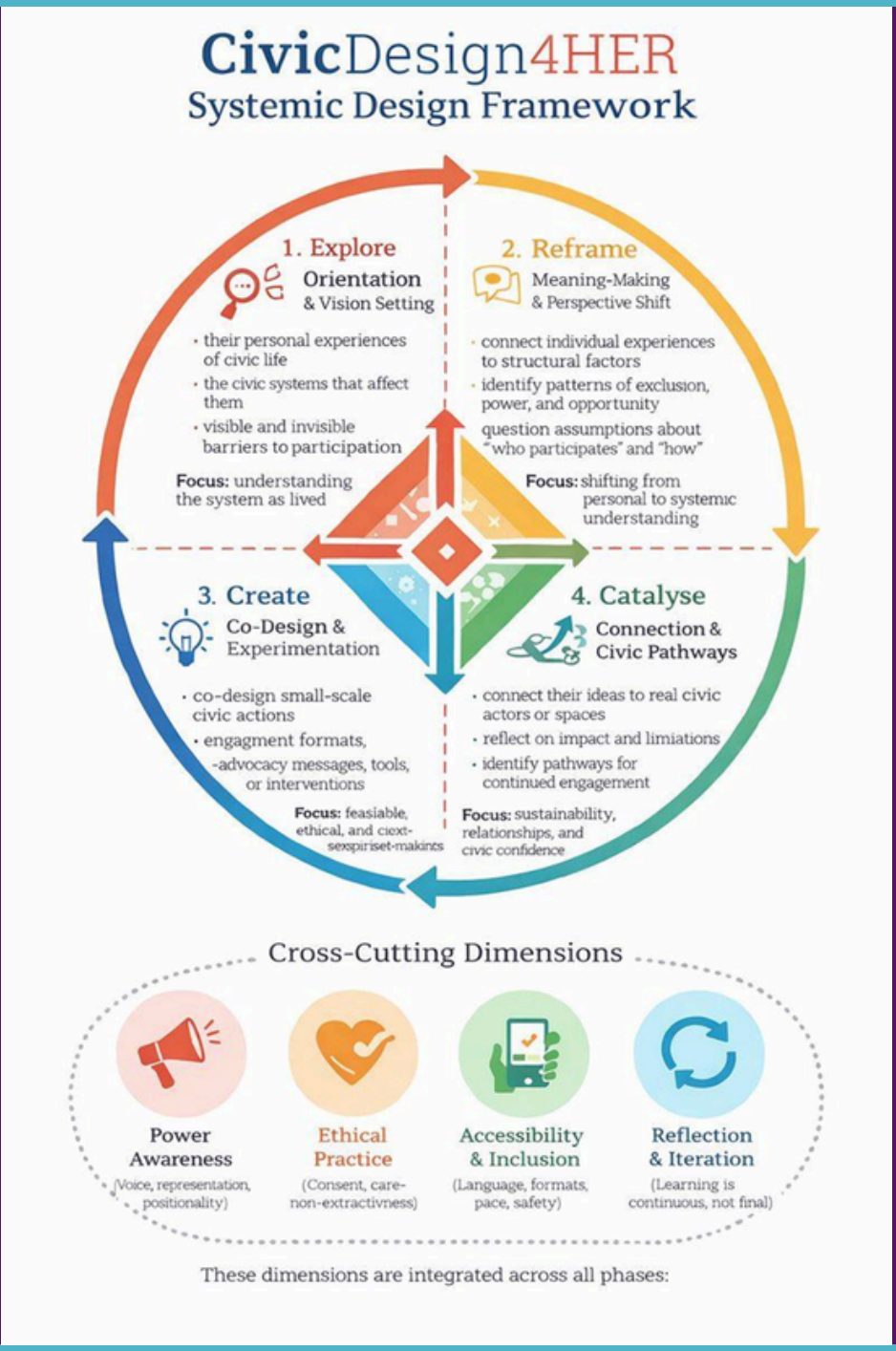
CivicDesign4HER got off to a great start with the kick off transnational project meeting held in Hannover, Germany, from February 3–5, 2026, organized by VNB, as the coordinator. Partners came together to agree on the project goals and overall structure, assess the project management process, the communication process, and quality assurance; and initiate the development of key deliverables, such as the Methodology Handbook and the social media set up, including the project website.

Among other issues, participants discussed the development of the Systemic Design Framework and Learning Scenarios, the use of the e-learning platform and training material, preparations for the creation of Living Labs as regional learning hubs, and the development of the dissemination plan and project identity. During the meeting, it was possible to also set clear milestones, allocate tasks, and map out future steps.

Apart from official talks, there were chances for building partnerships between participants through informal networking and over the social dinner and gatherings over the course of the 2 days.

Spotlight: SYSTEMIC DESIGN FRAMEWORK

CivicDesign4HER



The heart of CivicDesign4HER lies in the Systemic Design Framework, a principle that guides the development of the project's Handbook and its educational modules. Instead of focusing solely on individual problems, it considers social, cultural, economic, and institutional dimensions to explain their impact on civic engagement. Thus, learners can transition from experience-based knowledge to a systemic perspective. The Handbook translates this framework into scenario-based instruments, making it accessible for educators and promoting genuine civic education designed to guide participants through a journey of systemic design:

- EXPLORE
  Understanding everyday civic life
  (e.g. "What counts as civic participation?")
- REFRAME
  Connecting personal stories to wider systems
  (e.g. power, voice, representation)
- CREATE
  Designing small, realistic civic actions
- CATALYSE
  Building long-term engagement pathways

These scenarios help transform experience into action.

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Our CivicDesign4HER partnership

CivicDesign4HER is an ErasmusPlus partnership between 6 organisations from across Europe:

- Verein Niedersächsischer Bildungsinitiativen (Germany) – Coordinator
- The Hub Nicosia (Cyprus)
- S-NODI (Italy)
- Welcome Home International (Belgium)
- InnovED (Greece)
- Learning for Integration (Finland)

Together, we bring expertise in education, social inclusion, migration, and community engagement.

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