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# NATIONAL REPORT

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NATIONAL DESK RESEARCH & METHODOLOGY GUIDELINES

**PARTNER: Skill Up**

**COUNTRY: Italy**



## 1. Executive Summary

*Briefly summarize the key findings and insights from the national desk research*

The national desk research for the ONE Culture project explored a variety of creative methodologies, particularly focusing on learning through art, eco-art workshops, street art for rights, and Erasmus+ projects such as GREENART and EcoActiZenship. The research highlights how these methods and projects engage marginalized and diverse communities in addressing critical social and environmental challenges such as climate change, social justice, and environmental sustainability. The key findings indicate that these creative methods are effective in fostering dialogue on European values, promoting social inclusion, and creating a platform for discussing Global Citizenship. These methods are highly relevant for the ONE Culture project, as they not only align with the project's overarching goals of overcoming nationalism and Euroscepticism but also contribute significantly to the promotion of core European values, including solidarity, sustainability, and intercultural dialogue. By incorporating art and creative expression into the project's activities, we can enhance participation and ensure inclusivity, making it an accessible platform for diverse European communities to collaborate on these shared goals.

## 2. Methodology

*Outline the research methods used to gather information and describe the sources of information*

The research employed a desk analysis approach to gather and review information from several sources, including Erasmus+ project reports, national initiatives, and academic literature. This research was supplemented by interviews with project coordinators and educators involved in these initiatives. Key sources included reports on GREENART, EcoActiZenship, and Street Art for Rights, as well as studies on the use of art in promoting social change and environmental sustainability. The findings were then evaluated to assess their applicability to the ONE Culture project's goals of fostering intercultural dialogue and promoting European values.

### 3. Main Findings

#### 3.1 Creative Methods and Projects Identified

*List and briefly describe the creative method and projects explored during the research*

The desk research identified several innovative creative methods that have successfully engaged diverse communities in discussions around social justice, sustainability, and environmental issues. These methodologies can be adapted to the ONE Culture project to foster meaningful conversations about European values and Global Citizenship. Key methods and projects identified include:

- **Learning Through Art:** This approach incorporates various forms of art such as **visual arts, theater, community murals, and sculpture** to raise awareness about important social and environmental issues. Participants are encouraged to express their personal reflections through art, helping them connect deeply with topics such as **sustainability, climate change, and social equity**. This method fosters creativity and critical thinking, while providing an outlet for individuals to reflect on their roles within the community and society at large.
- **GREENART:** An Erasmus+ project that uses art-based workshops to engage young people and adults in environmental sustainability. **GREENART** facilitates the creation of **artworks and performances** that raise awareness about pressing environmental issues such as **pollution, deforestation, and sustainable practices**. The project emphasizes **intercultural dialogue**, where diverse participants collaborate to create art that addresses these global challenges. This methodology encourages youth to explore their personal connection to sustainability and fosters a sense of **eco-citizenship**.
- **EcoActiZenship:** An Erasmus+ project that focuses on combining **digital literacy** with **eco-citizenship**, empowering youth to become actively involved in sustainability practices. The project encourages young people to engage in **environmental actions** by using **digital tools** such as social media platforms and apps to document and promote their eco-friendly behaviors. The project also offers workshops that cover topics such as **zero-waste living, climate action, and renewable energy**. This methodology combines the benefits of **digital engagement** with hands-on activities, providing a unique opportunity for youth to bridge the gap between environmental knowledge and real-world action.

- **Street Art for Rights:** A national initiative that uses **street art** as a vehicle for promoting **social justice** and raising awareness about the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. This project involves marginalized communities, including youth, migrants, and low-income groups, in creating public art installations that address critical issues such as **equality, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability**. By engaging local residents in the creation of these works, the project fosters a sense of community ownership and empowers individuals to use their artistic expression to create social change.

### 3.2 Relevance to the Project One Culture

*Discuss how these methods and project align with or support the project's objectives*

The creative methods and projects identified during the desk research are highly relevant to the **ONE Culture** project as they align with the core objectives of promoting **Global Citizenship**, fostering **intercultural dialogue**, and reinforcing **European values** such as **solidarity, sustainability, and inclusion**. These methods offer innovative ways to engage diverse communities across Europe, particularly marginalized groups, in discussions that challenge nationalism and Euroscepticism while promoting a shared European identity.

1. **Promoting Global Citizenship through Art and Creativity:** One of the primary goals of the **ONE Culture** project is to foster **Global Citizenship**, which involves recognizing our shared responsibility for social, environmental, and cultural issues, both locally and globally. The methodologies identified, particularly **learning through art** and **eco-art workshops**, provide platforms for individuals to reflect on these issues in a creative and engaging manner. By using art to explore environmental sustainability, climate change, social justice, and human rights, these methods encourage participants to see themselves as part of a global community responsible for shaping the future.

The **GREENART** and **EcoActiZenship** projects exemplify this approach. They empower youth to become active **eco-citizens**, not only by raising awareness about pressing environmental challenges but also by equipping them with the tools and knowledge to make informed decisions about their role in addressing these challenges. These projects align with the **ONE Culture** project's focus on fostering active citizenship and encouraging participants to contribute to sustainable development and social inclusion.

2. **Fostering Intercultural Dialogue:** At the heart of the **ONE Culture** project is the goal of promoting **intercultural dialogue**, an essential component for overcoming **Euroscepticism** and **nationalism** in Europe. The creative projects identified provide the opportunity for people from different cultural backgrounds to engage in shared experiences that transcend national boundaries and foster mutual understanding.

For example, **Street Art for Rights** uses public art installations to address universal themes such as social justice, equality, and the SDGs. This approach resonates with the **ONE Culture** project's objective to use art as a medium for **cross-cultural exchange**, allowing diverse communities to collaborate on issues of shared European concern. By involving marginalized communities, such as low-income groups, migrants, and youth, **Street Art for Rights** builds solidarity and encourages dialogue on pressing social issues. This process helps participants connect with each other on a human level, breaking down prejudices and creating a common platform for intercultural exchange.

**GREENART** also emphasizes intercultural dialogue by bringing together youth from diverse social, cultural, and educational backgrounds. Through collaborative art projects, young people not only reflect on environmental issues but also share their unique perspectives, fostering mutual respect and understanding. This exchange of ideas helps to strengthen the social fabric of European societies and challenges the isolationist tendencies that often lead to nationalism and Euroscepticism.

3. **Promoting European Values:** The **ONE Culture** project is built on the foundation of **European values**, including **solidarity**, **diversity**, and **sustainability**. The creative methods explored in the research directly support these values. **Eco-art** and **street art**, for example, engage participants in addressing environmental and social sustainability — a core European value. Through these creative projects, participants not only express their personal experiences but also engage with broader issues such as **climate justice**, **social inclusion**, and **environmental protection**.

**EcoActiZenship** integrates **digital literacy** with **sustainability education**, a combination that helps participants understand how **digital tools** can be used to promote sustainable living. This methodology connects digital engagement with environmental action, reflecting the European Union's commitment to promoting digital innovation as a means of addressing global challenges. By empowering youth to use digital platforms for eco-friendly behaviors and sustainability campaigns, **EcoActiZenship** contributes to the EU's **Green Deal** and broader goals of promoting environmental responsibility across Europe.

Moreover, the **artistic expression** encouraged by projects like **Street Art for Rights** aligns with the European Union's emphasis on the importance of **cultural diversity** and **social inclusion**. The project demonstrates how art can be used to communicate messages about **equality** and **human rights**, promoting European values in a creative, accessible, and engaging way. These methods also provide a **platform for marginalized communities** to share their voices, empowering individuals who are often excluded from mainstream discussions about **European identity**.

4. **Encouraging Civic Engagement and Community Empowerment:** Another key aspect of the **ONE Culture** project is the promotion of **civic engagement** and **community empowerment**, which are central to the vision of a united and inclusive Europe. The research found that creative projects like **GREENART** and **Street Art for Rights** empower participants to become active members of their communities by engaging in **collective action** through art. These projects encourage individuals to take ownership of the issues that matter to them, whether that's tackling **environmental challenges** or advocating for **social justice**.

Through workshops, exhibitions, and public art installations, participants are encouraged to reflect on how they can contribute to their local communities and make a tangible impact. These projects serve as tools for social transformation, providing marginalized communities with the means to voice their concerns and propose solutions through creative means.

### 3.3 Challenges and Opportunities

*Identify any challenges encountered in the research; highlight opportunities for applying the findings in the project*

The research identified a few challenges that need to be addressed for the successful implementation of these creative methods within the **ONE Culture** project. One challenge is the **limited documentation** on the long-term impact of these creative methodologies in diverse European contexts. Some projects, like **GREENART** and **EcoActiZenship**, are still in their early stages, making it difficult to assess their full potential and effectiveness across various cultural settings.

Another challenge is the **difficulty of engaging marginalized communities** in these initiatives, especially those without prior exposure to art-based education or sustainability topics. The **lack of resources** and the **need for community buy-in** can also hinder the success of some projects.

Despite these challenges, the research highlighted several **opportunities** for the **ONE Culture** project. The **flexibility of creative methodologies** like **eco-art** and **street art** allows them to be easily adapted to different cultural and social contexts across Europe. Additionally, these methods present an opportunity to **engage youth** and marginalized communities, encouraging their active participation in social and environmental change through creative expression. The integration of **digital tools** in projects like **EcoActiZenship** also offers an exciting avenue for engaging young people and encouraging them to promote **eco-friendly behaviors** in innovative ways.

## 4. Conclusion

*Summarize the impact and relevance of the desk research and the main findings*

The national desk research has provided crucial insights into the creative methodologies that will contribute to the success of the **ONE Culture** project. By exploring projects like **learning through art**, **GREENART**, **EcoActiZenship**, and **Street Art for Rights**, the research highlights how creative approaches can effectively address the key objectives of the **ONE Culture** project, including the promotion of **Global Citizenship**, **social inclusion**, and **sustainability**. These methods are not only aligned with the European Union's core values but also offer innovative ways to engage diverse communities, particularly marginalized groups, in meaningful dialogue and action.

The findings demonstrate the potential of art and creative expression to foster **intercultural dialogue**, break down barriers of nationalism and Euroscepticism, and strengthen the **European identity**. By using creativity as a tool for engaging youth and communities in discussions on environmental sustainability, social justice, and cultural diversity, these projects have the capacity to build solidarity, empower individuals, and promote shared European values across borders. Moreover, the integration of **digital tools** and **eco-citizenship** further enhances the ability of these methodologies to engage young people in shaping the future of Europe, making them an essential part of the project's strategy.

Incorporating these creative methods into the **ONE Culture** project will help foster an inclusive, collaborative, and forward-thinking Europe, where diverse communities come together to collectively address challenges and promote a more sustainable and socially just society. The findings from this research will be instrumental in shaping the project's activities and ensuring its impact in promoting a stronger, more united Europe, built on the foundation of creativity, solidarity, and mutual respect.





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## **Overcoming Nationalism and Euroscepticism Through Culture**