

Back after summer: the four modules at the heart of Youth Digital Leaders

Summer is behind us, and across Europe youth workers, educators and young people are settling back into a new season of activity. September always carries a particular energy: new groups, new questions, and for many young people, a whole autumn of life happening both offline and online.

It feels like the right moment to slow down and look at something we have been building quietly all year: the training modules that give the Youth Digital Leaders programme its shape.

If you have been following the project, you know it rests on a simple but demanding idea. Young people are not only exposed to digital risks. They can be part of the response. For that to be real, youth workers need a clear, shared set of competences to build on. Our training is organised around four modules, each one mapped to one of the four Cs of online life: Content, Contact, Conduct and Contract. Complete a module and you earn a badge that connects to the European competence framework the consortium has developed, aligned with the logic of the European Qualifications Framework.

Here is what each module is about.

Module 1: Content

Badge: Critical & Ethical Creator

This module is about what young people read, watch, produce and share online. It helps youth workers develop media literacy with the young people they support: how to weigh the credibility of information, how to recognise misinformation, manipulation and polarisation, and how to create content that is meaningful, inclusive and ethical. It also looks at digital identity and storytelling, so that self-expression online strengthens a young person's voice while protecting their dignity and their boundaries.

Module 2: Contact

Badge: Safe Digital Communicator

Contact is about relationships and interactions online, the good, the risky and the harmful. This module helps youth workers recognise, prevent and manage the risks that come with digital exchanges, and support peer-to-peer communication that is safe and empathetic. It introduces practical approaches such as motivational interviewing, early prevention and crisis response, along with the role of peer mentoring and psychosocial support. Youth workers are often the first adults a young person confides in about an online problem, and this module prepares them for exactly those moments.



Module 3: Conduct

Badge: Responsible Digital Actor

Conduct looks at behaviour: how young people act online, and how the platforms themselves shape that behaviour. The module unpacks how digital ecosystems, platform logics and algorithms work, and how to help young people move through them as active, informed citizens. It also addresses emotional intelligence and digital well-being: managing group dynamics, easing aggression and anxiety, and taking some of the weight off the pressure and comparison that social media can amplify.

Module 4: Contract

Badge: Digital Responsibility & Identity Protector

The fourth C is the one people talk about least, and it matters just as much. Contract is about the rules, rights and obligations that govern our digital lives. This module familiarises youth workers with key frameworks such as the GDPR and BIK+ (Better Internet for Kids), and helps them guide young people to understand their rights and responsibilities online and to build a consistent, respectful digital identity, contributing to a more trustworthy digital environment for everyone.

What to look forward to this autumn

The four modules are not the end of the story, they are the core of it. As we move into autumn, the project is entering its final stretch, and there is plenty to look forward to.

Over the coming weeks the final training resources and Open Educational Resources will go live on the website and the learning platform, in English and in our partners' national languages. The certification will take shape around the badges above. In parallel, our partners in Italy, Belgium, France and Czechia will begin recruiting Youth Contact Points, local points of reference who keep this work alive on the ground in each country. And the project will come together for a final event in November, followed by a last wave of dissemination across our four countries and beyond.

However your autumn is shaping up, whether you work with young people every day or are just discovering the project, we are glad to have you with us. Wishing everyone a good return after the summer. There is a lot to look forward to.



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