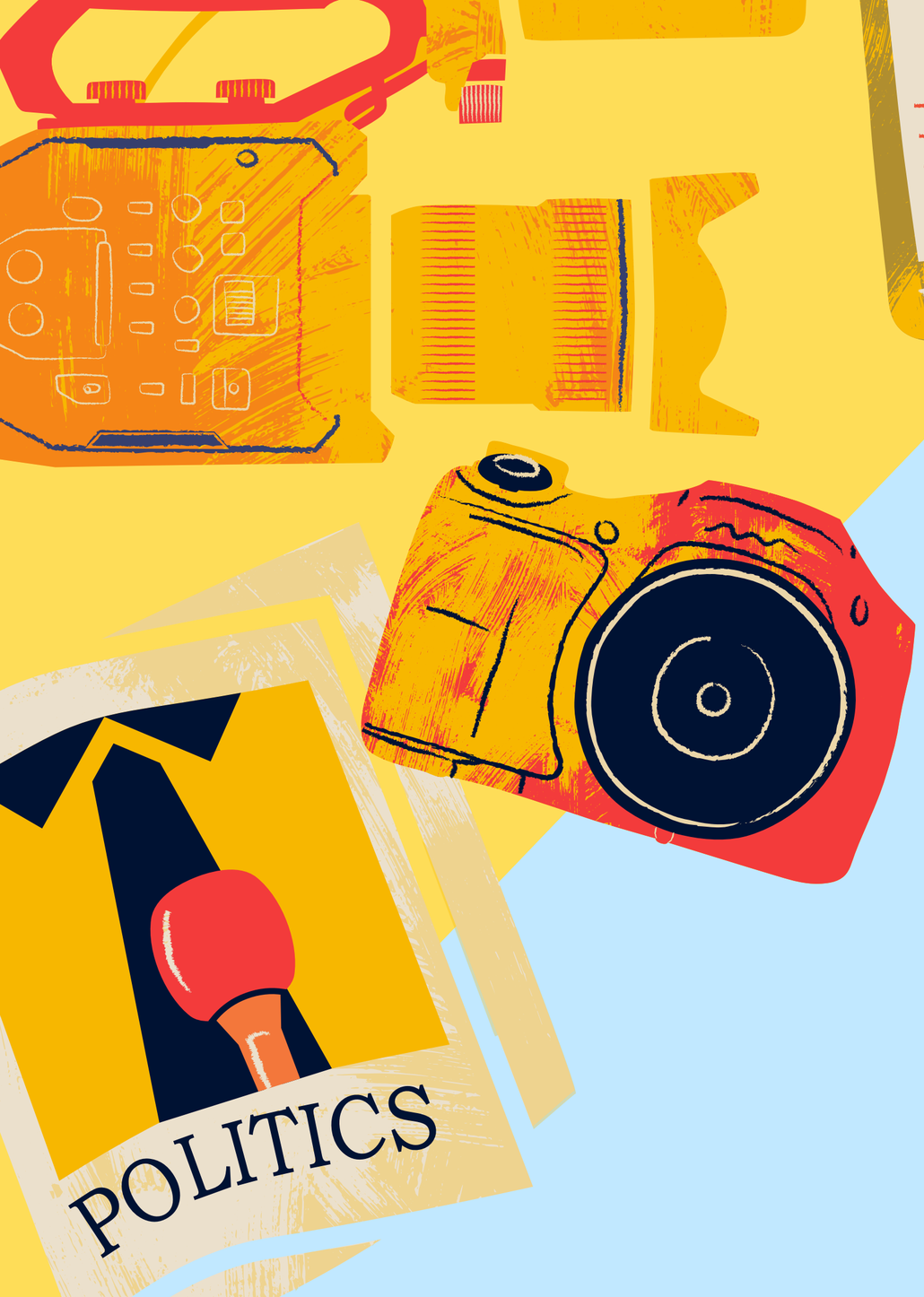
yEUth Reporters

YOUTH EXCHANGE

Report

22-26 September, Varna, Bulgaria





yEUth Reporters

ABOUT
the project

The yEUth Reporters youth exchange aims to explore EYG #4 Information and Constructive Dialogue and introduce the participants to the main principles of citizen journalism and responsible media consumption and media production through various non-formal activities, group tasks, and a collection of street interviews gathering opinions on important public issues. The project aims to empower the participants to report the issues they consider crucial for the future of the EU by following the principles of ethical journalism and developing their analytical and critical thinking skills and ability to work in a group in an international setting.



PROJECT PARTNERS

HOSTING ORGANISATION

FOUNDATION FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP, CULTURE AND EDUCATION (FECE), BULGARIA

PARTNERS

HESSA, ROMANIA

YOUTHFULLY YOURS, SLOVAKIA

CEKOS, SERBIA

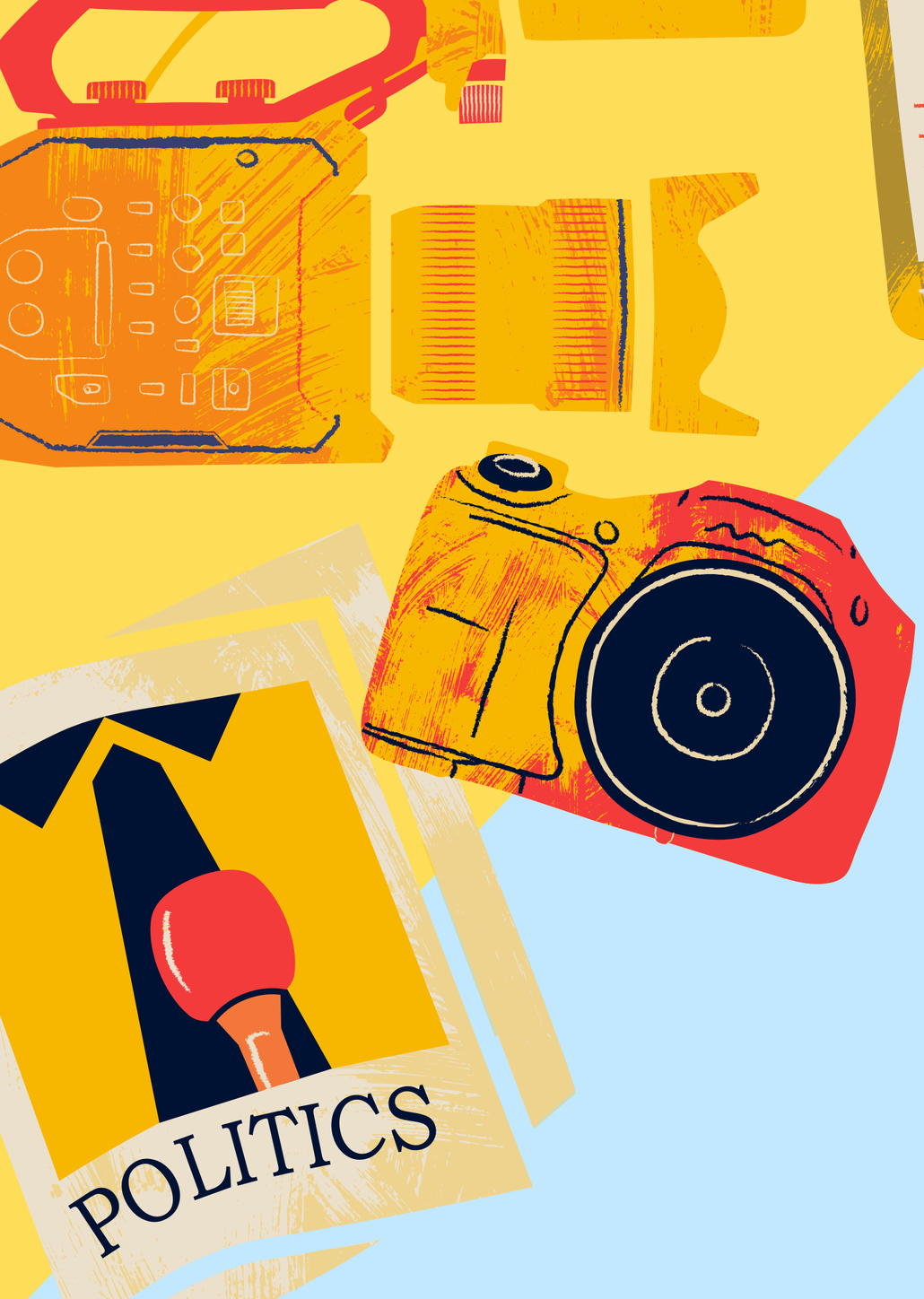
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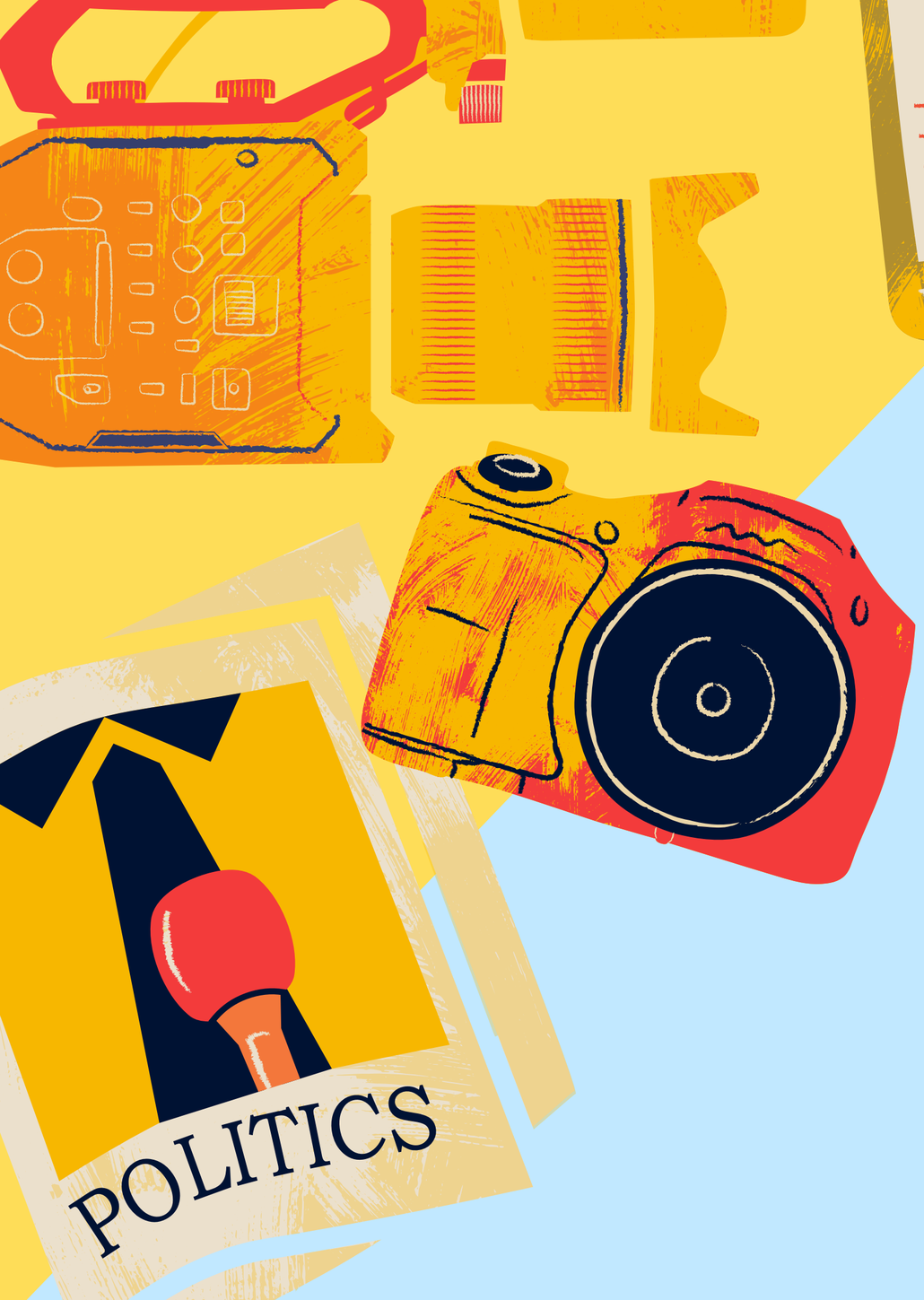
VENUE

The YE yEUth Reporters took place at Golden Sands seaside resort on the Northern Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The chosen accommodation was Detelina Hotel. It proved to be an ideal place for conducting the activities as it is located away from the big city, making it easy to work outside and enjoy the last sunny days of the summer. It is also minutes away from the beach and bus stops, thus giving participants the option to easily explore nearby places.
22 young people aged 18-30 took part in the exchange, from four European Countries: Bulgaria, Slovakia, Romania, and Serbia. The participants arrived at the hotel on 21 September and left on 27 September.



OBJECTIVES

- To raise awareness of the importance of citizen journalism as a tool to combat disinformation
- To acquire new knowledge and skills on creating high-quality journalistic pieces
- To promote the EU Youth Strategy and EYG #4 Information and Constructive Dialogue
- To raise cooperation, critical-thinking, analytical and leadership skills among the participants
- To raise awareness of the importance of youth voices when exploring and reporting various societal issues that young people consider important



RESULTS

- Participants gained a deeper understanding and new knowledge about the EU, its values and goals in the field of youth.
- Empowered young people to become active European citizens and participate in the democratic life of Europe, through exploring the EU Youth Strategy.
- Participants enriched their understanding of citizen journalism.
- Participants are more aware of the importance of youth activism and the use of citizen journalism as a tool to report important events.
- Participants improved their intercultural, collaboration and creative competencies.

WHAT IS
CITIZEN JOURNALISM

In this activity, the participants worked in groups to create definitions about citizen journalism. Firstly, they brainstormed on individual keywords that describe it. Then, they grouped into pairs and created common definitions. In the last phase, they formed bigger groups to discuss and rewrite their definitions.



“Citizen journalism is a fast way of collecting and sharing information that presents the concerns of the society from the perspective of witnessing and aims to aspire the public and the stakeholders to take actions.”



“Citizen journalism is to use your voice to advocate for problems or to report important issues within the community and participate in discussions about things like attests of violence and things that traditional media can miss. It also connects people with various backgrounds and opinions.”

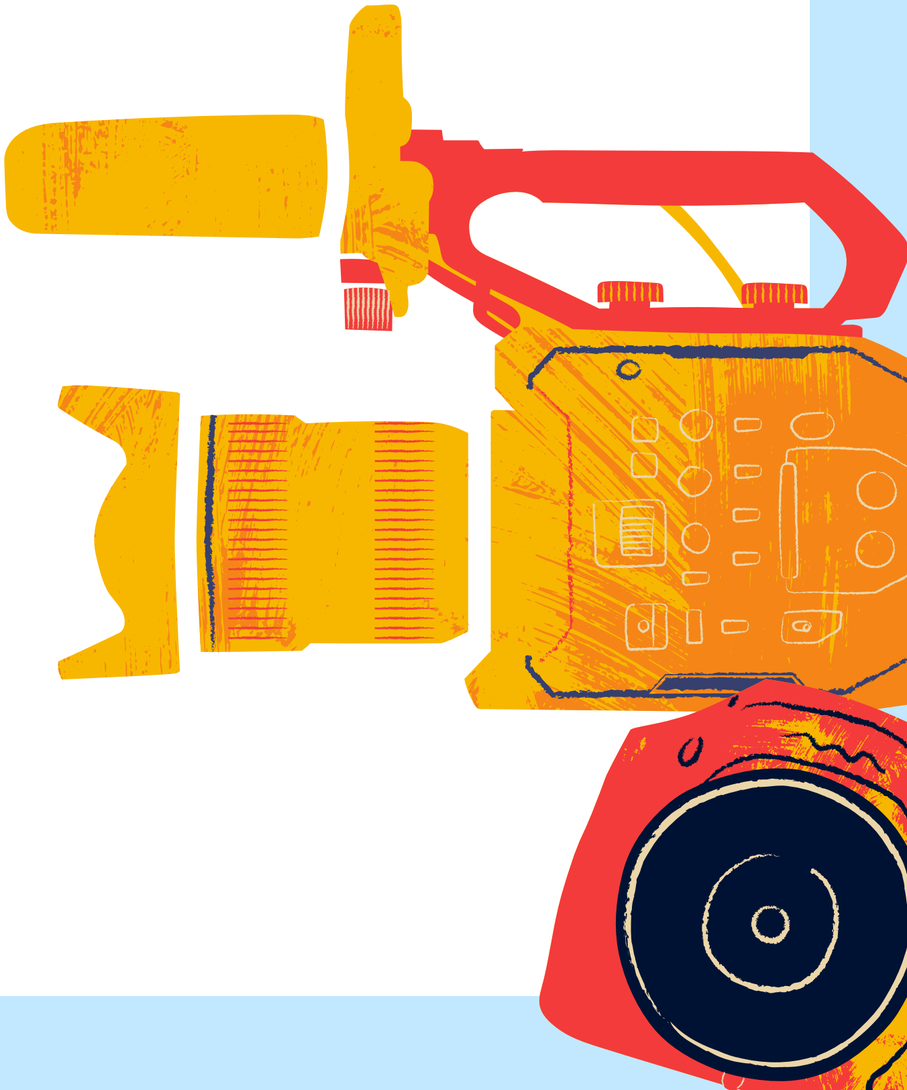
WHAT IS
CITIZEN JOURNALISM

“Citizen journalism is social and democratic movement which focuses on everyone’s freedom of expressing and having different opinions without the fear of being judged.”

“Citizen journalism is an independent branch of journalism that stems from the point of view of communities, using information from reliable nets to report about social issues including uncovered topics.”







HOOD STORIES

In this activity, the participants worked in National groups. First, they brainstormed on an issue that young people in their countries face. Then each group chose one person to act as a citizen journalist and investigate the issues of one of the remaining national groups. In the last phase, the citizen journalists returned back to their original group and they created article reflecting the investigated issue.

BULGARIA: Limited Job Opportunities for young people in Bulgaria - the topic was reported by the Serbian group

ROMANIA: Lack of educational initiatives regarding sexual and reproductive health in Romania - reported by the Bulgarian group

SERBIA: Promotion of Conservative Nationalism by older generations in RS - reported by the Slovak group

SLOVAKIA: Limited housing opportunities in SK - reported by the Romanian group



YOUTH GOALS HEROES

Divided into groups, the participants had to represent a role model fictional persona advocating for one of the 11 EYGs.



Group 1 - Moving Rural Youth Forward

- the person comes from a rural area
- he is 28 years old
- bachelor's and master's degrees in politics
- single
- teacher, politician, social worker, head of NGO
- knows English, French, sign language
- dreams of young people actively taking part and shaping youth policies
- he wishes for the inclusion of rural communities, equal and quality education, equal access to job opportunities, and good infrastructure that connects the rural areas with the big city
- wants to ensure that young people in rural areas are actively participating in decision-making processes
- he achieves this by organising workshops, academies and campaigns about civic engagement in rural areas; he needs the help of NGOs with similar aims to fulfill his mission

YOUTH GOALS HEROES

Group 2 - Equality of All Genders

- the person wants equal treatment at the workplace, equal payment and to eliminate stereotypical gender roles
- he became an HR manager at the workplace and by that, he will help coworkers be treated fair without discrimination
- his target is that in one year, all of his coworkers will be treated right
- wants to make a difference in his own country
- 27 years old
- PHD graduate
- married
- HR manager
- speaks Italian, German and French
- want to make a change in his community



YOUTH GOALS HEROES

Group 3 - Sustainable Green Europe



- the person is from Varna, Bulgaria
- 25 years old
- just graduated from university
- family of fishman
- helping his father with the fishman business
- wants to learn German and French
- wants to make the family business meaningful and sustainable
- uses his village to educate the older generation to lead a more sustainable life; organises cleaning activities
- wants to engage the local community with sea pollution
- starts a petition to combat sea pollution

YOUTH GOALS HEROES

Group 4 - Quality Learning

- comes from Plesievec, Slovakia
- 37 years old
- finishing PhD in London in International Relations; finished PhD in Economics in Yale
- married with a kid on the way
- university professor and volunteer for a local political party
- wants to learn Spanish, German and Arabic
- wants to become the Minister of Education, Development, Research and Youth for the Slovak Republic
- he wishes for Quality Learning
- wants to guarantee that education equips all young people with life skills such as money management and health education
- he continues to work in the university and independent groups; he needs more publicity and connections







STATE THEIR TRUTH

During this simulation activity, the participants explored topics such as media literacy and citizen journalism. They formed 4 groups - citizen journalists, city council, private construction company and NGOs who gathered in a protest against a local park reconstruction. By interviews with all parties involved the citizen journalists had to report what is actually happening. The activity was implemented within the European Digital Citizenship Education Week 2025.





SPACES FOR FUTURE ONLINE BOARD GAME

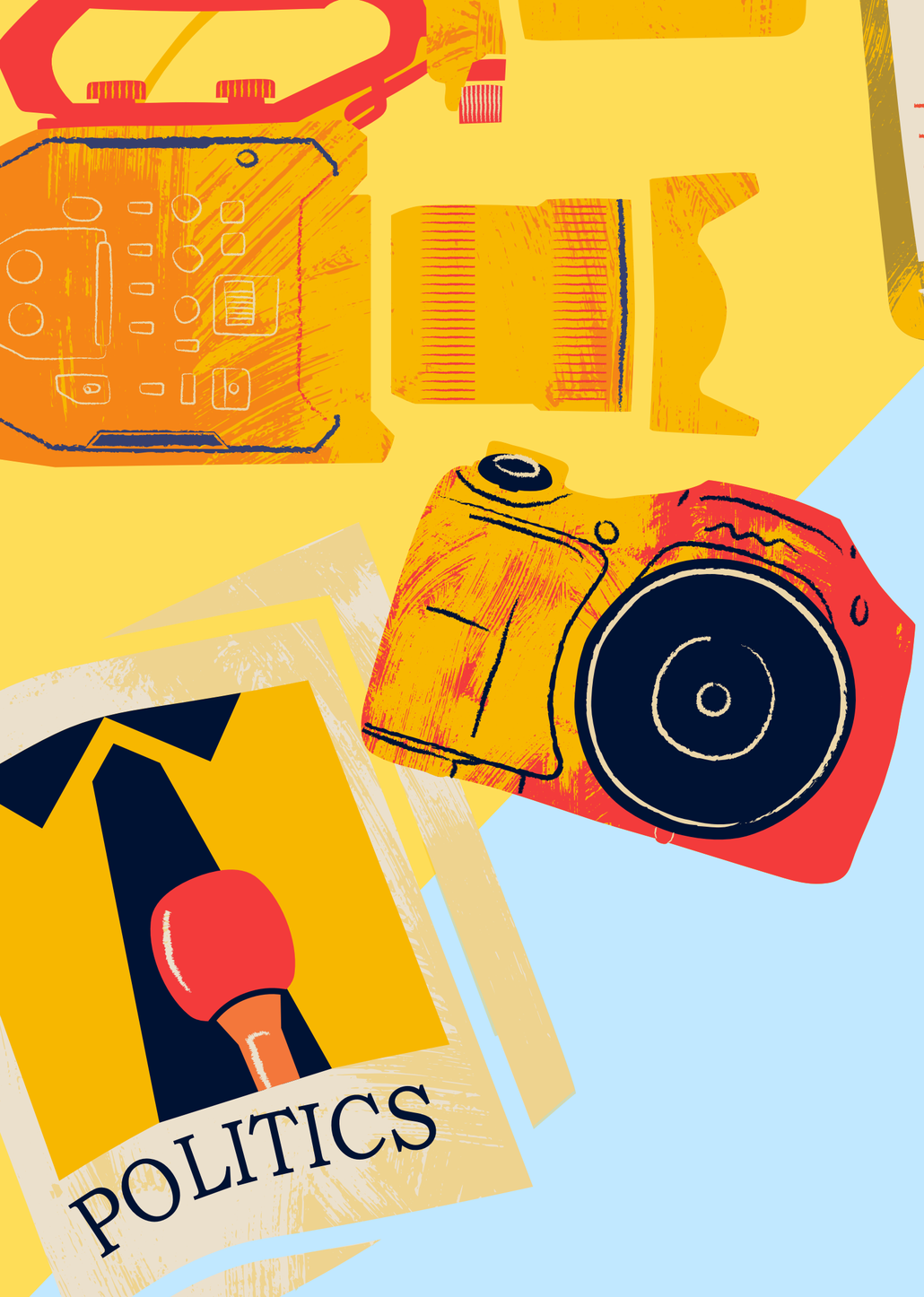
The participants were also introduced to the Spaces for Future Online Board Game, created within the Green Ethics Creative Europe project. They improved their knowledge related to the environment by answering quizzes, learning more about eco activism and our impact on the environment and by exploring various planet related future scenarios.



DIGITAL JOURNEY MAP - NAVIGATING THE NOISE

The participants explored the negative influence of information overload on mental health by comparing media habits and identifying solutions to limit the negative influnce ofmedia overconsumption .

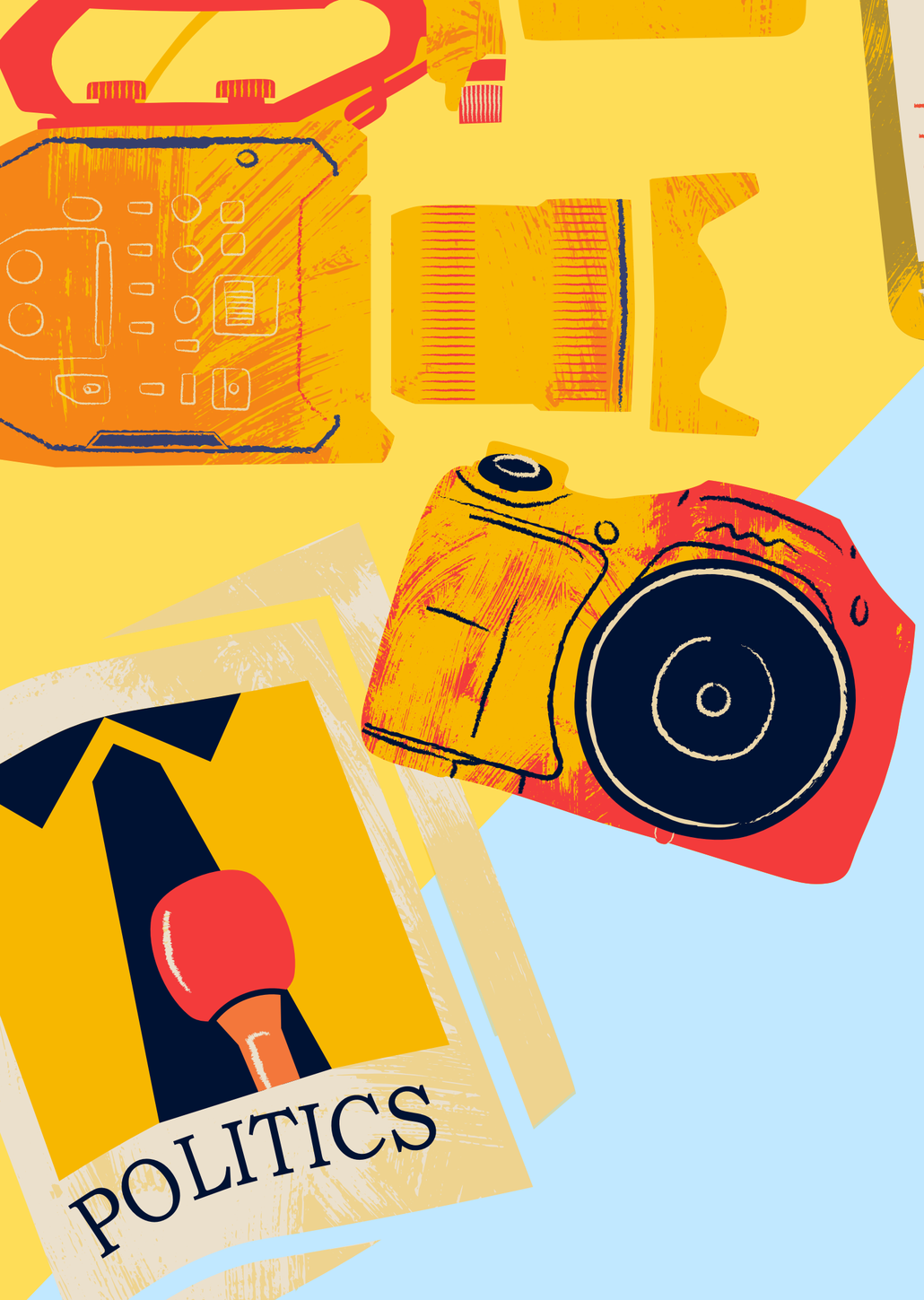




ERASMUS+
PROJECT IDEAS

PSYCHOLOGY BEYOND BORDERS

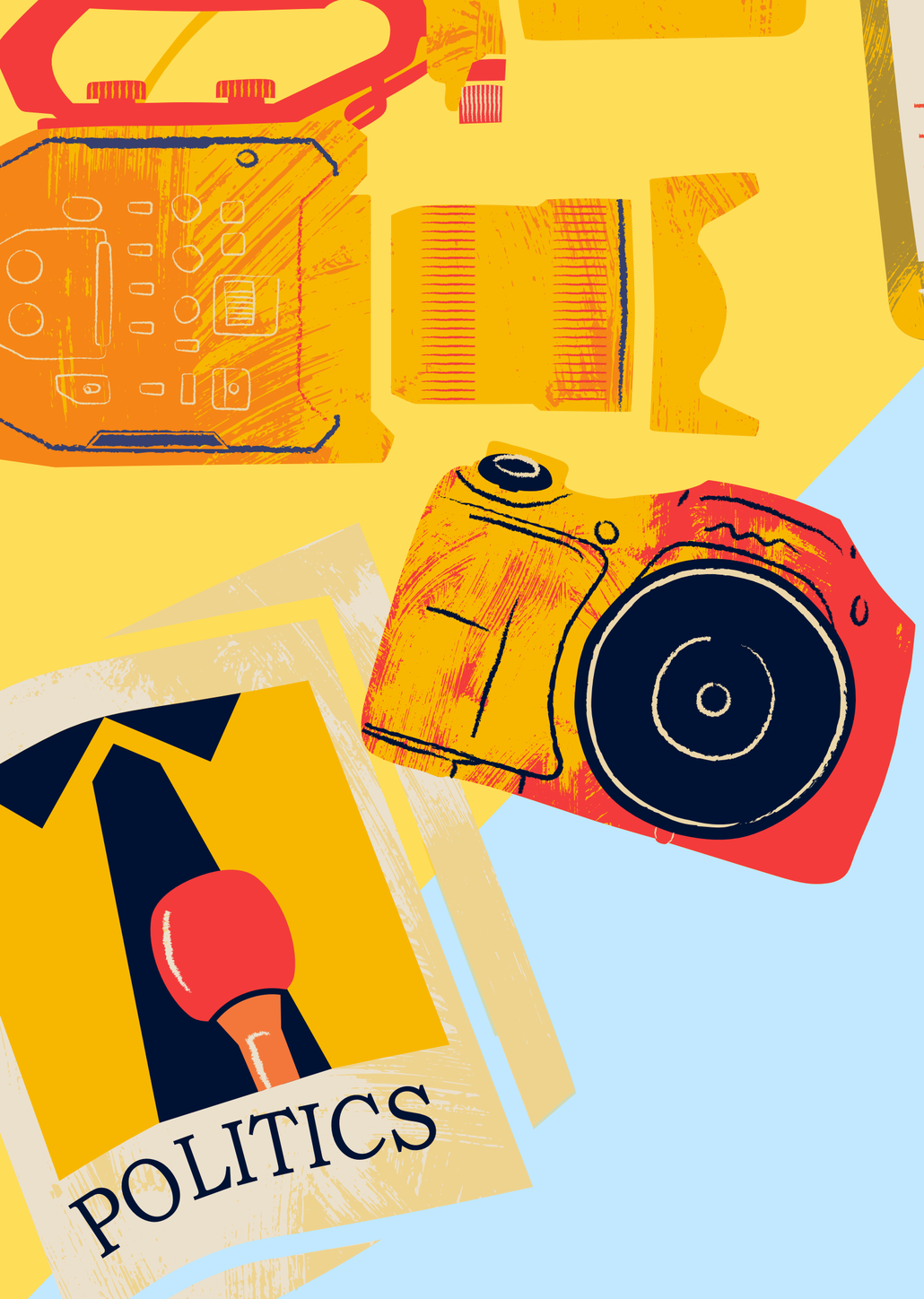
- training course in Cologne, Germany
- joint learning and exchange of information between aspiring psychology students and youth workers
- promotion of EYG #5 Mental Health and Wellbeing
- 10-20 September
- Participating countries: Georgia, Germany, Finland, France, Portugal, Serbia, Poland and Greece
- 3 participants per country; age 18-50
- Activities: cognitive tests and exercises; data sharing and cross-examination of cases; personality and emotional assessment; interview practice; ethics and moral simulations; cultural sensitivity tasks; exploration of Cologne
- Online seminar for reassessment 30 days after the TC



ERASMUS+
PROJECT IDEAS

FROM TREND TO TRASH: UNDERSTANDING FAST FASHION

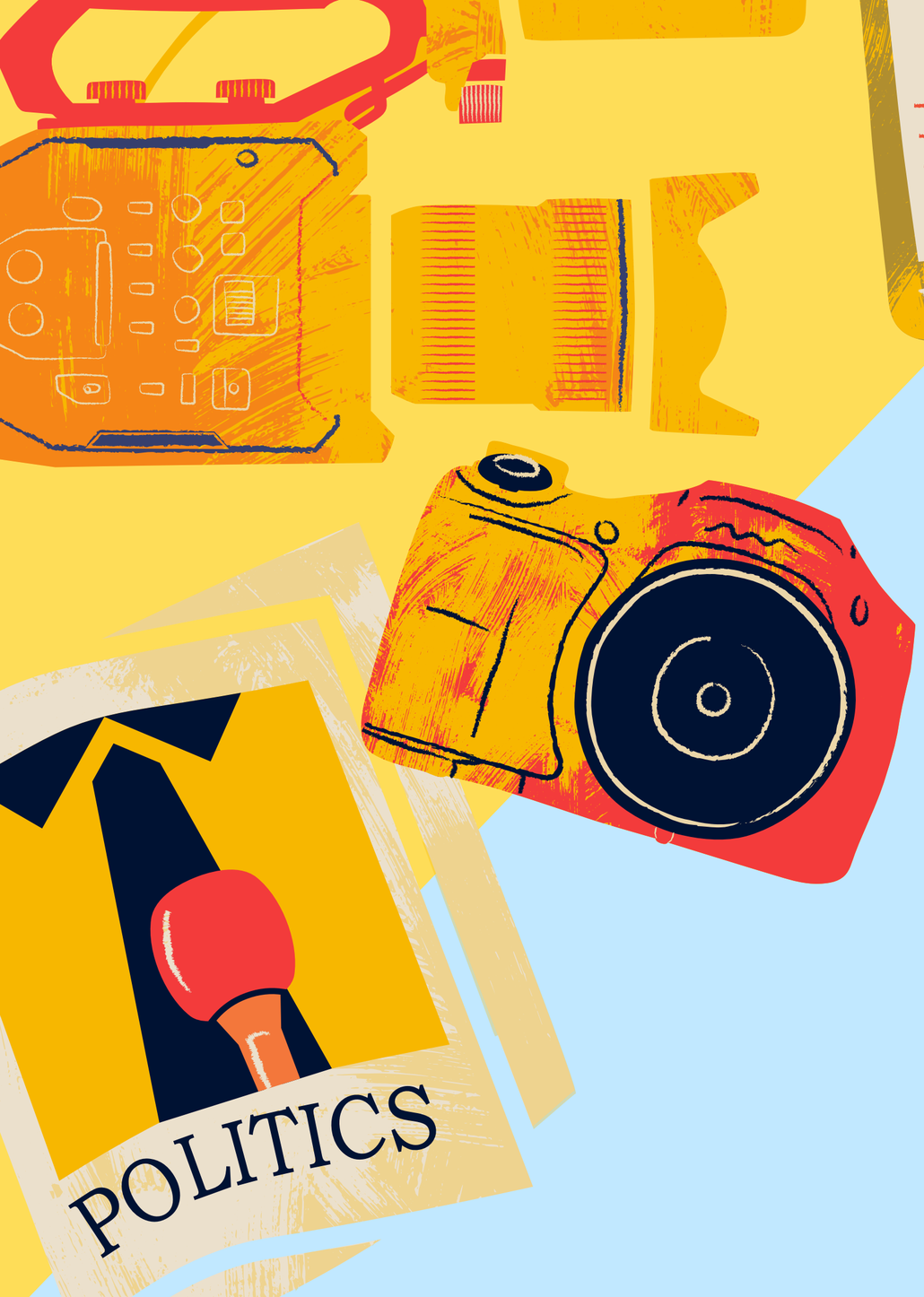
- Addressing the lack of knowledge and awareness of the negative impact fast fashion has on the environment in the long run
- Target groups: young people (16-30) in the partner countries Bulgaria, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova
- Objectives: familiarizing the participants with the negative outcomes of consuming fast fashion, to know more about the alternatives to fast fashion
- Activities: interactive seminars, lectures with experts, role games and simulations
- 24-31 October
- Bansko, Bulgaria
- Dissemination with videos, reels, assembly with the Municipality on the topic of Fast Fashion, open local discussions



ERASMUS+
PROJECT IDEAS

GREEN TOGETHER

- Topics: environmental awareness, inclusion and active citizenship for greener Europe
- Target groups: young people with Down syndrome (18-30), youth workers, volunteers
- Goals: to increase knowledge about environmental protection, to promote social inclusion and participation for youth with Down syndrome, to encourage sustainable habits in daily life
- Summer 2026
- Eindhoven, Netherlands
- 7 working days + transport + preparation + follow-up phase
- Results: better understanding of environmental issues and sustainability; practical skills in recycling, reusing and reducing waste; improved self-confidence, communication and teamwork skills
- CTA: Let's build Green Europe Together - inclusive, sustainable and open for everyone!



ERASMUS+
PROJECT IDEAS

YOUR CHOICE, YOUR VOICE

- YE aiming to address the lack of structured and comprehensive sexual education in many schools
- Target groups: youth (16-25), teachers and youth workers
- Goals: to provide young people with access to reliable and comprehensive sexual education, to build the capacity of teachers and youth workers in delivering
- sensitive and inclusive content, to reduce stigma and misinformation surrounding sexuality, relationships, and health.
- 3-17 October 2027 in Pissouri, Cyprus (2 weeks long)
- Activities: Icebreakers and trust-building games to create a safe and open environment; Role-playing activities on scenarios about consent, healthy boundaries, peer pressure, and digital safety.
- Dissemination via social media, schools, NGOs, friends and family













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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

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