



YUFE Civic Star Fact Sheet

General description

The YUFE Civic Star will be awarded for active citizenship related actions, in which universities and cities work together to develop solutions to local challenges, many of which are also of European and global relevance. Gaining the YUFE Civic Star means that you have developed your citizenship and personal competences as well as contributed to society.

You can take part in YUFE actions in society by choosing to participate either in the YUFE Help Desks, YUFE Community Volunteering Programme or YUFE@Home Initiative. It is not possible to mix the activities in order to gain the YUFE Civic Star. Through these activities and specific tasks, you will become an active member of society and co-build strong university-citizen communities. By doing so, you will contribute towards solving European challenges and co-create a more cohesive society for current and future generations living in Europe and beyond.

The work towards the YUFE Civic Star consists of 1) training, 2) working on the Civic Star Personal Development Plan (PDP) and 3) attending the activity itself. Your achievement of the YUFE Civic Star will be assessed as “pass” or “no pass” based on the self-reflection report in the PDP and the verification of worked hours by the YUFE Representative. The Personal Development Plan will give an overview of your progress in the journey leading you to the YUFE Civic Star.

Activities

YUFE Help Desks: In the YUFE Help Desks, you will answer citizens’ questions within your field of study, thus providing first-level assistance in a wide variety of subjects under the scope of the YUFE focus areas (European identity and responsibilities in a global world, Citizens Well-being, Digital Societies or Sustainability). The YUFE Help Desks also act as a front office to gather the needs and challenges identified by the citizens living in each of the YUFE cities and regions. The YUFE Help Desks will be supervised by university staff as YUFE Supervisors, who will also be responsible for ensuring the quality of the assistance and/or service delivered. YUFE Help Desks can be physical, virtual or blended, including, for example, online service and pop-up Help Desks connected to events in the cities. You can participate in a YUFE Help Desk organised by your own university or any other YUFE university.

YUFE Community Volunteering Programme: You may also participate in various volunteering activities in communities. These activities are organised with third party partners, Town halls, companies or other actors, but respect the principles and regulations of volunteering activity in each YUFE location (particularly, insurance, rights and commitments of volunteers, etc.). You do not need to volunteer in activities related to your field of study, but you can provide your insight, knowledge and skills to help citizens in a “giving and gaining” philosophy. The YUFE Community Volunteering Programme will enrich the social experiences of students, staff and citizens, providing a unique resource for the cities. You can participate in the YUFE Community Volunteering Programme in your own city or in any other YUFE city.

YUFE@Home Initiative: Through this activity, citizens, public organisations or dormitories offer accommodation to YUFE students and staff for partially or fully waived costs, in return for which they will contribute to relevant activities (e.g. work in retirement homes). This co-living experience increases understanding and integration between different generations, cultures, social and professional backgrounds. For you, having a ‘home’ when you are away from your family will provide you with important social support, and potentially have a positive impact on your overall health, including mental health and wellbeing. The benefits for hosts might include, for example, support in learning a

language, support for young children, school children or senior citizens or practical support with housekeeping. You can attend the YUFE@Home Initiative in your own city or in any other YUFE city.

Competences

While participating in the YUFE Civic Star activities, you will develop some of the competences indicated below. These competences have been identified as those that a YUFE student will have acquired or further developed by successfully taking part in and completing the YUFE Student Journey and the YUFE Star System.

The competences that the YUFE Civic Star activities most contribute to are marked in bold:

	GLOBAL LITERACY / SYSTEMS THINKING	SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY / NORMATIVE COMPETENCE	TRANSFORMATIVE ENGAGEMENT
KNOWLEDGE	European Identity and Responsibilities in a Global World (as of AY20/21) Citizens' Well-being (as of AY21/22) Digital Societies (as of AY21/22) Sustainability (as of AY21/22)		
SKILLS	Intercultural communication	Moral/ethical reasoning	(Glocal) participatory action
	Perspective-taking	Personal responsibility	Change agency
	Self-reflection	Active listening	Connecting and collaborating
	Complex problem solving	Upstander skills	Conflict resolution
	Critical thinking	Emotion regulation	Design thinking
ATTITUDES AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS	Commitment to inclusion	Integrity	Courage
	Respect	Sense of Purpose	Trust
	Humility	Fairness	Resilience
	Curiosity	Empathy	Serenity

Workload

Aims/goals for each particular activity (YUFE Help Desks, YUFE Community Volunteering and YUFE@Home) are predefined in the Personal Development Plan.

- For YUFE Help Desks, a participation of a minimum of 50 hours for extracurricular activities or 2 ECTS for activities within modules is required.
- For Volunteering activities, participation of a minimum of 50 hours is required.
- For YUFE@Home, a minimum of one semester in the programme with active involvement with the community is required.

YUFE Star Award Criteria

In order to be awarded the YUFE Civic Star, you will need to have successfully completed at minimum:

- The mandatory training module specifically tailored to the Civic activities,
- One Civic activity (YUFE Help Desk, YUFE Community Volunteering or YUFE@Home), and
- Parts 1-3 in YUFE Civic Star Personal Development Plan, including the self-reflection on the implemented activity.

Further information

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact CivicStar.YUFE@uef.fi.

Maastricht University ↔ Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun ↔ Universidad Carlos III de Madrid University of Antwerp ↔ University of Bremen ↔ University of Cyprus ↔ University of Eastern Finland University of Essex ↔ University of Rijeka ↔ Tor Vergata University of Rome ↔ ETS Global European Entrepreneurs CEA-PME ↔ Kiron Open Higher Education gGmbH ↔ The Adecco Group