

YUFE Civic Star

Factsheet



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 this reward means that you have developed your citizenship and personal competences, as well as contributed to creating a more sustainable society.

You can take part in local initiatives by choosing to participate either in a **Help Desk** or a **Community Volunteering** programme.

It is not possible to mix the activities in order to gain this 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 world for current and future generations living in Europe and beyond.

The work towards the Civic Star consists of **training**, the **activity** itself and self-reflection. Your achievement will be assessed as 'pass' or 'no pass' based on the self-reflection report and the verification of worked hours by your local coordinator.

The **Reflection Report** that you will complete gives an overview of the progress you made during your journey to the YUFE Civic Star.

Activities

A) 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, Sustainability.

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. These programmes are

monitored by university staff, acting as **supervisors**, who are responsible for ensuring the quality of the assistance and/or service delivered.

They can be physical, virtual or blended, including, for example, online service and pop-up desks connected to events in the cities.

You can participate in a Help Desk organised by your own university or any other YUFE university.

B) Community Volunteering

You may also participate in a **volunteering in your neighbouring community**. These activities are **co-created with third party partners**: town halls, companies or NGOs. They respect the principles and regulations of volunteering activity (particularly, insurance, rights and commitments of volunteers).

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 Community Volunteering programmes enrich the social experiences of students, staff and citizens, allowing them to directly **act on the ground** and providing a unique resource for the cities.

Workload and requirements

You need to undertake at least one of the YUFE Civic Star activities, with a minimum expected workload of **50 hours**.

In order to be rewarded, you will need to have successfully completed:

- **One civic activity**: Help Desk or Community Volunteering.
- **One Civic Engagement Activities Intro Training** for students (2 hours, included in your workload).
- The Civic Star *Reflection Report* (step 1 & step 2).

[Click here to discover all the activities leading to the Civic Star.](#)

Competences

While participating in Civic Star activities, you will develop some of the competences indicated below.

The competences that the community and civic engagement 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 Citizens' Well-being Digital Societies Sustainability		
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

The Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) is one of the dynamic European University Alliances, selected by the European Commission. YUFE aims to shape a holistic and inclusive future for students and learners, and their society in Europe. The YUFE Alliance strives to be the front-running Alliance of European Higher Education in which students, learners, and staff are co-leaders, co-dreamers, and co-creators. YUFE's mission is to become a successful model of a socially responsible European University.