



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Kick- Off: Launch of the EUDNA Project

Kick-Off Meeting Brings Together European Consortium to Strengthen Civic Education and Democratic Values

1. Official Start and International Cooperation

On **January 16, 2026**, the official kick-off meeting for the European project **EUDNA (EU's Democratic and Normative Assessment)** was successfully held. Conducted online via Microsoft Teams, the session brought together all partner organizations and their respective representatives to formalize the launch of this significant transnational initiative.

The launch meeting was honored by the presence and special intervention of **Khadija Nouri**, Project Officer representing the **European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)** of the European Commission. In her address, she congratulated the consortium and highlighted the high strategic importance of the EUDNA project within the current European geopolitical and educational context, reinforcing a shared commitment to the EU's foundational values.

During this initial session, each of the partners, their respective representatives, and CESUE had the opportunity to speak, provide their feedback, and share their enthusiasm as well as their extensive experience in these types of international projects. Under the scientific coordination of the **Faculty of Law of Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (NOVA School of Law)**, the EUDNA consortium comprises six strategic partners from four European countries (Portugal, Italy, Lithuania, and North Macedonia). This initial working meeting served to align common strategic goals, clarify the implementation framework, define financial and operational governance, and formally establish the Coordinating Committee that will guide the partnership over the next three years (36 months).

2. Official Participant List by Institution

The kick-off meeting saw active engagement from all partner and associated organizations. The table below outlines the official list of participants present at the launch event, structured by entity and country of origin:



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Institution / Partner Entity	Country	Present Representatives
European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)	European Union	Khadija Nouri (Project Officer)
UNIVERSIDADE NOVA DE LISBOA (UNL) NOVA School of Law (Coordinator)	Portugal	Francisco Pereira Coutinho Joshua Ahmad Bárbara Sacramento Cristiana Rosa Sofia Santos Diogo Ferreira
Liceo Scientifico Statale Michelangelo	Italy	Sonia Mattana Giovanni Maciocco
Istituto Statale E. Montale (Liceo Montale)	Italy	Sergio Quaranta Sara Bertolli
Agrupamento de Escolas de Barcelos (AEB)	Portugal	Fernando Carvalho Joaquim Oliveira
Šiaulių Lieporių gimnazija	Lithuania	Asta Valantinavičienė Mindaugas Dambrauskas Irmina Petrauskienė
Municipal Secondary School Gymnasium Goce Delchev Kumanovo (SOU Gimnazija)	North Macedonia	Filip Mladenovski Elena Markovska Nikica Velichkovski Valentina Arsic Aleksandra Arsovska
CESUE (Associated / External Partners)	Italy	Roberto Castaldi Luca Sanna



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

3. Scientific Vision and Structural Organization (Work Packages)

Scientific Coordinator **Prof. Dr. Francisco Pereira Coutinho (UNL)** presented a comprehensive overview of EUDNA's action plan. The project aims to strengthen secondary school civic education regarding democracy, the rule of law, and human rights (including minority rights) by creating an innovative curriculum, implementing a "train-the-trainer" model for teachers, and fostering student participation through debates, simulations, and role-playing games.

The project's operational structure is divided into three distinct Work Packages with clear institutional leaderships:

- **WP1 – Project Management and Coordination:** Centered at Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (UNL), managing administrative governance, quality control, progress reporting, and milestone fulfillment.
- **WP2 – Curriculum Development and Pedagogical Activities:** Led by Liceo Michelangelo (Italy), focusing on designing digital educational materials and developing the interactive EduCivica platform.
- **WP3 – Communication, Dissemination, and Impact Strategy:** Managed by Agrupamento de Escolas de Barcelos (AEB) (Portugal), responsible for the official portal (eudna.eu), social media presence, opinion articles on Euractiv, newsletters, hybrid conferences, and a final closing event in Brussels.

4. The "Lump Sum" Financial Model: Efficiency and Focus on Results

The financial framework of the project operates under the European Commission's Lump Sum Funding methodology, a modern approach designed to optimize administrative efficiency and shift focus from micro-accounting to actual performance quality. The core features include:

- **Administrative Simplification:** By eliminating the requirement to report actual individual costs or resource tracking, this model reduces financial error rates. This setup simplifies project management for partners with less experience in complex EU reporting, enabling teams to dedicate their full focus to educational and scientific delivery.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

- **Output-Based Reimbursements:** Budgets are pre-allocated per partner and per Work Package. Final grant payments are strictly tied to the complete and successful execution of the planned work (milestones and deliverables), rather than the actual financial sum expended.
- **Consortium Flexibility:** The partnership maintains full autonomy to reallocate internal budgets to ensure the success of activities, provided the macro-plan in the Grant Agreement is met. Significant structural changes must be managed through formal adendas (amendments).
- **Technical and Implementation Audits:** Traditional financial audits on actual expenditures are replaced by qualitative technical reviews. Evaluators focus on implementation success, ethical compliance, open science standards, intellectual property rights, and dissemination impact. Additionally, EUDNA was selected for a "proactive monitoring exercise" by the EACEA to ensure continuous high quality.
- **National Compliance:** Despite the flexibility granted at the EU level, all institutional partners remain legally bound to strictly comply with their respective national legislations regarding accounting, public procurement, and personnel hiring.

5. Initial Commitments and Next Steps

During the closing working session, partners reached core operational consensus to guarantee smooth transnational collaboration throughout the project's life cycle:

- **Meeting Schedule:** A commitment was made to hold regular coordination meetings, moving to a bi-weekly cadence during the most intensive pedagogical production phases to ensure continuous consortium monitoring.
- **Communication Channels:** A comprehensive contact list was formally created to maintain a smooth, direct, and structured flow of communication among all partners regarding specific project topics and tasks.
- **Shared Digital Repository:** A secure, cloud-based platform (using SharePoint/OneDrive) will be deployed immediately to centralize document version control, report archival, and the preservation of execution evidence.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

6. Meeting Image Gallery (Microsoft Teams)

