

Training programme Participation at VU - 2026 - 2027

Module 1 - Entering Participation: Entering the role and understanding the system (May – June 2026)

<i>Session 1 – Entering Participation</i> Kick-off & Orientation	Introduction to participation at VU, meeting fellow representatives, and programme overview.	3 June 2026 , 16:00 – 17:30 (with drinks afterwards)
<i>Session 2 – VU Governance, Roles & Rights</i> VU Governance Structures & Participation Rights	Understanding governance structures, decision-making processes, and formal participation rights.	15 June 2026 , 10.00-12.00 or 17 June 2026 , 10.00 -12.00
<i>Session 3 – Communication & Influence</i> Strategic Communication for Impact	Communicating effectively across different audiences and power dynamics.	15 June 2026 , 13.00-15.00 or 17 June 2026 , 13.00-15.00

Module 2 – Participation in Practice: Developing skills to collaborate, negotiate, and shape meaningful change (September – December 2026)

<i>Session 4 – Group Dynamics & Collaboration</i> Shaping Group Culture & Working with Diversity	Building a healthy council culture and working with diversity of perspectives.	14 Sep 2026 , 10.00-12.00 or 16 Sep 2026 , 10.00 -12.00
<i>Session 5 – Educational Quality & Innovation</i> Open Conversations on Educational Quality	Sharing ideas, initiatives, and learning from peers and educational specialists.	14 Sep 2026 , 13.00-15.00 or 16 Sep 2026 , 13.00-15.00
<i>Session 6 – From Policy Plan to Action Plan</i> Turning Policy Plans into Concrete Outcomes	Turning innovative ideas for change and councils' plans into concrete actionable steps and prioritised initiatives.	5 Oct 2026 , 10.00-12.00 or 7 Oct 2026 , 10.00 -12.00, <i>cancelled</i>
<i>Session 7 - Negotiation & Constructive Dialogue</i> Navigating Tensions, Interests & Shared Solutions	Developing skills to engage with conflicting interests, conduct constructive dialogue, and negotiate effectively within participatory and institutional contexts.	5 Oct 2026 , 13.00-15.00 or 7 Oct 2026 , 13.00-15.00, <i>cancelled</i>

<i>Session 8 – Formative assessment for learning</i> Giving and Receiving Feedback for Team Growth and Reorganization	Using the Focus Group Method and complementary feedback techniques to purposefully gather, analyse, and use feedback as a basis for learning, alignment, and constructive re-organisation within teams.	30 Nov 2026, 13.00-15.00 or 2 Dec 2026, 13.00-15.00
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Module 3 – Review and Redirect Participation: Learning from experience to refine direction and strengthen ongoing impact

(January – March 2026)

<i>Session 9 – Reflection & Personal Motivation</i> Mid-Journey Checkpoint: Reviewing Progress & Recharging Motivation	Reflecting on progress, reconnecting with purpose, and recalibrating priorities.	25 jan 2027, 13.00-15.00 or 27 jan 2027, 13.00-15.00
<i>Session 10 – Closing the Loop & Looking Ahead</i> From Mandate to Meaning: Continuity & Future Professional Pathways	Making sense of the full participation journey by looking back and looking forward.	22 feb 2027, 13.00-15.00 or 24 feb 2027, 13.00-15.00