InterAct

LEARNING PROGRAMME

Active European Citizenship in Practice (Democracy, Participation and Civic Engagement in Schools)

10-DAY COURSE

50 learning hours | Course programme

Active European Citizenship in Practice (Democracy, Participation and Civic Engagement in Schools) – 10-Day Course

Introduction and Description

Active European Citizenship has become a central educational priority in contemporary European societies, particularly in the context of democratic backsliding, declining civic participation, the rise of misinformation, and increasing social polarisation. Schools are no longer viewed merely as spaces for transmitting civic knowledge, but as key democratic environments where values, participation, responsibility and agency are actively experienced and practiced. This course responds to the growing need for teachers and school leaders to design, implement and sustain meaningful citizenship education that goes beyond curriculum content and is embedded in everyday school culture.

The course Active European Citizenship in Practice: Democracy, Participation and Civic Engagement in Schools offers an in-depth professional development programme that combines theoretical foundations, European policy perspectives and hands-on pedagogical strategies. Grounded in the principles and values of the European Union, the programme explores citizenship as a dynamic and lived practice, closely linked to democratic participation, human rights, student voice, intercultural dialogue and community engagement. Participants critically examine how democratic values such as equality, solidarity, inclusion, freedom of expression and shared responsibility can be meaningfully cultivated within diverse school contexts.

Particular emphasis is placed on participatory and whole-school approaches to citizenship education. The course addresses how democratic practices can be integrated into school governance, classroom pedagogy and community partnerships, enabling students to become active contributors to school life and society. Participants explore practical models for student participation, including student councils, deliberative classroom methods, service learning, project-based civic action and digital participation. The programme also examines contemporary challenges such as digital citizenship, media literacy, democratic resilience and the role of education in countering exclusion and disengagement.

Throughout the course, participants are supported in reflecting on their own institutional realities and professional roles, while developing concrete action plans tailored to their schools. The programme is particularly relevant for educators and coordinators involved in Erasmus+ projects, whole-school development initiatives and values-based education, offering transferable tools and frameworks applicable across European educational systems. By the end of the course, participants are empowered

to foster democratic learning environments that actively engage learners as responsible, critical and participatory European citizens.

Methodology and Assessment

The course is based on experiential, participatory and reflective learning methodologies aligned with adult education and democratic education principles. Training methods include interactive workshops, case-study analysis, collaborative group work, simulations, role-play, guided discussions and project-based learning. Participants are actively involved in co-creating knowledge, sharing professional experiences and designing practical outputs relevant to their institutional contexts.

Assessment is formative and continuous, focusing on professional reflection, peer feedback and practical application. Participants are assessed through active participation, reflective tasks and the development of a school-based citizenship action plan. The course concludes with self-evaluation and group reflection, supporting transfer of learning and long-term impact within participants' schools.

Learning Objectives

1. Conceptual Foundations of European Citizenship

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of active European citizenship, democratic values and civic engagement in education
- Analyse the role of schools in fostering democratic culture and participation

2. Democracy, Rights and Responsibilities in Schools

- Examine the relationship between rights, responsibilities and participation within school communities
- Apply ethical and democratic decision-making frameworks to real school scenarios

3. Student Voice and Participatory Pedagogies

- Design inclusive strategies to strengthen student voice and agency
- Implement participatory teaching methods that promote dialogue, deliberation and shared responsibility

4. Whole-School and Community-Based Citizenship Education

- Integrate citizenship education into school culture, leadership and policy
- Develop sustainable school-community partnerships and civic engagement initiatives

5. Digital and Intercultural Citizenship

- Address digital citizenship, media literacy and democratic participation in online spaces
- Promote intercultural dialogue, inclusion and European identity in diverse classrooms

6. Professional Reflection and Action Planning

- Critically reflect on existing practices and institutional challenges
- Develop a realistic, context-based citizenship action plan for implementation

Preparation

After registration participants will receive a pre-course questionnaire which will be used by the trainer to learn about participants' teaching backgrounds and to assess their exact needs. Before the beginning of the course a basic reading list will be suggested to participants to prepare for the training. Participants will also be asked to prepare a presentation about themselves, their professional context and their culture. The presentation will be presented on the first day of the course to facilitate networking opportunities. Participants will receive information about the country they are going to visit in order to prepare them for their cultural experience.

Follow up

After the course participants will be asked to share what they have learned with the rest of the staff in their schools. Further books and articles to deepen the topic and contacts with some other practitioners all over Europe and in the world will be suggested by the trainer. The methods shared and explored and the bibliography given will allow the participants to complete and improve their educational path.

Certificate

Certificate complies with the guidelines of the Erasmus+ programme and includes the topic, number of didactic hours, dates and location of the course. We can list the record

of learning outcomes on the Europass Mobility Document on request of participants. In case a participant requires a specific format of certificate we can accommodate that if requested at least one week before the start of the course. It is necessary to attend at least 80% of the hours in order to receive the certificate.

Accommodation

We do not directly offer accommodation and subsistence and participants are responsible for organizing it by themselves.

Paperwork

We also provide all the support with paperwork you might need for your Erasmus+ project documentation such as mobility agreement and registration letter.

Fee: 800 €

Cancelation policy

We have a flexible cancellation policy in force at the moment and you can cancel your registration up to 30 days before the course and receive a full refund. In case you don't cancel the registration more than 30 days before you will not receive any refunds, but you will be able to choose to attend any other confirmed course session later (within 6 months) without any additional costs. In case you are not able to travel, your school can send someone else to take instead of you and you can change the details of the participant any time before the start of the course at no additional cost.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME (50 didactic hours - 5*45min per day) Monday to Friday	
Day 1	Foundations of Active European Citizenship
09.00 - 09.45	Introductions & Icebreakers
09.45 - 10.30	Course Overview & Learning Agreement
10.30 - 11.15	What is Active European Citizenship?

11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Democratic values in European education
12.15 - 13.00	Citizenship education in schools today
Day 2	Democracy, Rights and Responsibilities
09.00 - 09.45	Democracy as a lived practice in schools
09.45 - 10.30	Rights, responsibilities and active participation
10.30 - 11.15	Children's and students' rights in education
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Ethical dilemmas and democratic decision-making
12.15 - 13.00	Mapping rights and responsibilities in participants' schools
Day 3	Student Voice and Participation
09.00 - 09.45	Student voice as a pillar of democratic schooling
09.45 - 10.30	Structures for student participation
10.30 - 11.15	Participatory methods for the classroom
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Co-creation and shared decision-making
12.15 - 13.00	Design lab
Day 4	School Democracy and Whole-School Approaches
09.00 - 09.45	What makes a democratic school?
09.45 - 10.30	Whole-school citizenship education
10.30 - 11.15	Teachers, leaders and students as democratic actors
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Overcoming barriers to participation
12.15 - 13.00	Assessing democratic practices in participants' institutions
Day 5	Citizenship Across the Curriculum
09.00 - 09.45	Cross-curricular citizenship education
09.45 - 10.30	Project-based and inquiry-based learning for democracy
10.30 - 11.15	Media literacy and critical thinking

11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Values education through everyday teaching
12.15 - 13.00	Designing a cross-curricular citizenship project
Day 6	Civic Engagement and Community Participation
09.00 - 09.45	Civic engagement beyond the classroom
09.45 - 10.30	Service learning and community projects
10.30 - 11.15	Partnerships with local communities and NGOs
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Volunteering, activism and youth participation
12.15 - 13.00	Drafting a school-community engagement initiative
Day 7	European Dimension and Intercultural Citizenship
09.00 - 09.45	European identity and diversity
09.45 - 10.30	Intercultural dialogue and democratic coexistence
10.30 - 11.15	Addressing stereotypes and exclusion
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Citizenship in a multicultural classroom
12.15 - 13.00	European cooperation in schools
Day 8	Digital Citizenship and Participation
09.00 - 09.45	Digital citizenship in Europe
09.45 - 10.30	Online participation and youth voice
10.30 - 11.15	Democracy in the digital age
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Teaching critical digital participation
12.15 - 13.00	Designing a digital citizenship learning activity
Day 9	From Policy to Practice
09.00 - 09.45	European and national frameworks for citizenship education
09.45 - 10.30	Translating policy into school practice
10.30 - 11.15	School self-evaluation and democratic indicators

11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Measuring participation and engagement
12.15 - 13.00	Professional reflection and peer learning
Day 10	Individual support, presentations & Closing
09.00 - 09.45	Action Planning for School Implementation
09.45 - 10.30	Preparing the final presentations and individual support
10.30 - 11.15	Final presentations and feedback
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Evaluation & Reflection
12.15 - 13.00	Validation of learning outcomes and certification

*This is only a tentative timetable. The exact hours or the course might differ and will be announced for each session 2 weeks before the start. However, there will always be a total of 5 didactic hours per day and all will be in line with the Erasmus+ quality standards. The trainer might slightly modify the content in response to the needs of the group.
**Cultural and social programmes will be organized in addition to the academic programme. The exact cultural and social programme depends on the location, season, weather, etc.