InterAct

LEARNING PROGRAMME

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

5-DAY COURSE

25 learning hours | Course programme

Active European Citizenship in Practice (Democracy, Participation and Civic Engagement in Schools) – 5-Day Course

Introduction and Description

Active European citizenship education has become an essential component of contemporary schooling, as democratic societies face increasing challenges related to political disengagement, declining trust in institutions, social polarisation and the spread of misinformation. Within this context, schools play a crucial role not only in transmitting civic knowledge, but also in cultivating democratic values, participatory skills and a sense of responsibility among learners. Citizenship education is therefore increasingly understood as a lived and experiential process, embedded in everyday school practices, relationships and decision-making structures.

The course Active European Citizenship in Practice: Democracy, Participation and Civic Engagement in Schools is designed to support teachers, school leaders and education professionals in developing meaningful, participatory and whole-school approaches to citizenship education. Grounded in the values and principles promoted by the European Union, the programme explores citizenship as a multidimensional concept encompassing rights and responsibilities, democratic participation, student voice, intercultural dialogue and community engagement. Participants examine how democratic values such as equality, inclusion, solidarity, freedom of expression and shared responsibility can be actively fostered within diverse educational settings.

The course places strong emphasis on participatory pedagogies and democratic school culture. Participants explore concrete strategies for strengthening student participation, including student councils, classroom deliberation, co-creation of learning processes, service learning and civic action projects. Attention is also given to contemporary dimensions of citizenship education, such as digital citizenship, media literacy and democratic engagement in online environments. Through critical reflection and collaborative learning, participants analyse challenges and opportunities related to power relations, inclusion, leadership and institutional change.

Throughout the programme, participants are encouraged to connect theoretical perspectives with their own professional contexts, exchanging practices and experiences from different European education systems. The course culminates in the development of a realistic, school-based citizenship action plan, supporting sustainable implementation and long-term impact. The programme is particularly relevant for educators involved in Erasmus+ mobility projects, civic education, values-based learning and whole-school development initiatives, offering transferable tools applicable across formal and non-formal educational settings.

Methodology and Assessment

The course adopts an experiential and participatory methodology aligned with adult learning and democratic education principles. Training methods include interactive workshops, case-study analysis, collaborative group work, simulations, role-play, guided reflection and project-based learning. Emphasis is placed on peer learning, professional dialogue and the co-creation of practical outputs relevant to participants' school contexts.

Assessment is formative and reflective, focusing on professional engagement and practical application rather than formal testing. Participants are assessed through active participation, reflective tasks and the development of a school-based citizenship action plan. Continuous peer feedback and self-evaluation support learning transfer, institutional relevance and sustainable impact beyond the course duration.

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: 400 €

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 (25 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	Whole-School Citizenship and Civic Engagement
09.00 - 09.45	The democratic school as an organisation
09.45 - 10.30	Whole-school approaches to citizenship education
10.30 - 11.15	Civic engagement and community involvement
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Inclusion and participation for all
12.15 - 13.00	Media literacy and critical democratic engagement
Day 5	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.