InterAct

LEARNING PROGRAMME

Climate Change, Citizenship and Democratic Engagement (Empowering Learners for Environmental Action)

5-DAY COURSE

25 learning hours | Course programme

Climate Change, Citizenship and Democratic Engagement (Empowering Learners for Environmental Action) – 5-Day Course

Introduction and Description

This intensive 5 day course is designed for secondary education teachers and adult educators seeking to address climate change as a complex societal challenge rooted in democratic, civic, and ethical dimensions. In contemporary educational and political contexts, climate change increasingly shapes public discourse, policy debates, and social relations, requiring educators to equip learners not only with scientific literacy, but also with the competences needed for critical judgement, civic participation, and democratic engagement.

The course positions climate change within the broader field of citizenship education, emphasising climate justice, social inequality, human rights, and intergenerational responsibility. Participants explore how environmental issues intersect with democratic values, governance structures, and power relations at local, national, and global levels. Particular attention is given to the unequal impacts of climate change and the ethical questions arising from responsibility, vulnerability, and participation, enabling educators to address these topics in an academically grounded and pedagogically responsible manner.

A central focus of the course is the role of education in fostering active citizenship and learner agency. Participants examine models of democratic participation and civic engagement, analysing how schools and adult education settings can function as spaces for dialogue, critical reflection, and collective action. The course supports educators in developing strategies for facilitating discussion on contested and emotionally charged issues, managing diverse perspectives, and ensuring inclusive participation in democratic learning environments.

Through a balanced combination of theoretical input, critical analysis, collaborative learning, and reflective practice, the course enables participants to translate principles of democratic climate education into concrete teaching and learning activities. Emphasis is placed on action-oriented and project-based approaches that connect classroom learning with real-world contexts, while maintaining ethical safeguards and educational integrity. Overall, the course contributes to strengthening democratic culture, climate literacy, and civic competence in secondary and adult education, empowering educators to support learners as informed, reflective, and responsible participants in shaping sustainable and democratic futures.

Methodology and Assessment

The course follows a learner-centred and participatory methodology grounded in democratic education principles. It combines concise theoretical inputs with interactive workshops, case-based learning, guided discussions, collaborative project design, and structured reflection. Active learning strategies such as inquiry-based learning, dialogue, peer exchange, and project-based approaches are used to foster critical thinking, civic competence, and professional reflection. Assessment is formative and continuous, based on self-reflection, peer feedback, participation in discussions, and the development of a practice-oriented learning project. Final assessment focuses on participants' ability to design and justify a climate and citizenship education activity transferable to their professional context, emphasising pedagogical relevance, reflective learning, and alignment with democratic values rather than summative testing.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Conceptual Understanding

- Analyse climate change as a multidimensional phenomenon encompassing environmental, social, political, and ethical dimensions.
- Explain key concepts related to climate justice, citizenship, democratic participation, and environmental responsibility.

2. Critical Thinking and Media Literacy

- Critically evaluate climate-related information, media narratives, and public discourses.
- Support learners in developing evidence-based reasoning, argumentation, and reflective judgement on contested climate issues.

3. Citizenship and Democratic Competences

- Promote active citizenship, learner voice, and civic agency in secondary and adult education contexts.
- Facilitate democratic dialogue, participation, and respectful disagreement within the classroom.

4. Pedagogical Design and Implementation

- Design inclusive, participatory learning activities and projects that connect climate education with democratic engagement.

- Integrate climate and citizenship themes across curricula and learning programmes.

5. Professional Reflection and Transfer

- Reflect critically on the educator's role in climate-related democratic education.
- Adapt and implement course methodologies within participants' own institutional and cultural contexts.

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	Climate Change as a Civic and Democratic Issue
09.00 - 09.45	Introductions & Icebreakers
09.45 - 10.30	Course Overview & Learning Agreement
10.30 - 11.15	Climate change beyond science – social and political dimensions
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Democracy, citizenship, and environmental responsibility
12.15 - 13.00	Reflective practice – educators' roles in climate citizenship
Day 2	Climate Justice, Inequality, and Ethics
09.00 - 09.45	Introducing climate justice

09.45 - 10.30	Unequal impacts and vulnerable groups
10.30 - 11.15	Global perspectives and intergenerational justice
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Teaching sensitive and value-laden issues
12.15 - 13.00	Case-based reflection and discussion
Day 3	Critical Thinking, Media Literacy, and Participation
09.00 - 09.45	Climate information, misinformation, and democratic debate
09.45 - 10.30	Developing critical thinking through climate issues
10.30 - 11.15	Media literacy and climate narratives
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Participation, learner voice, and civic agency
12.15 - 13.00	Designing discussion and debate activities
Day 4	Democratic Pedagogy and Action-Oriented Learning
09.00 - 09.45	Democratic classroom practices
09.45 - 10.30	Managing controversy and emotional responses
10.30 - 11.15	From awareness to civic engagement
11.15 - 11.30	Break
11.30 - 12.15	Project-based learning for climate citizenship
12.15 - 13.00	Ethical considerations and safeguarding
Day 5	Design, Individual Support, Presentations & Closing
09.00 - 09.45	Designing climate and citizenship learning projects
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.