

Implementation of Citizenship Education Actions in the EU

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Citizenship Education

Education for citizenship is about acquiring the abilities and attitudes necessary to *participate in political and civic life* (on local, national, and global levels);

about *relating to others*, in particular people with different social, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds;

and about *concern for sustainability* of humanity, the planet, and of *democracy*.

Changes in the Concept

Deepening: Political
Cultural
Social

Broadening: Country
Region (European or EU)
Global

Whole School Approach of citizenship education

1. Teaching knowledge, skills, and values

In a specific subject like Citizenship Education

Integration in other subjects

Cross-curricular activities

2. Dialogical, cooperative, and inquiring learning

3. Democratic school culture

4. Inclusive education bringing together different groups of students and teachers

5. Collaboration with the wider community

International Developments

- Nationalist ideology (own tradition, language, culture)
- Economic ideology (economic growth, competition, technological advancement)
- Moral ideology (democracy, human rights, sustainability)

Spring, 2004

Policy EU on Citizenship Education

- Paris Declaration (2015) on promoting citizenship
- Council Recommendation (2018) on Common Values
- Citizenship Report 2020
- Education Area 2020

They show

- Central EU-values: democracy, tolerance, inclusion, active participation
- Europe and EU have own history and future
- Actions: research, developments, cooperation

Erasmus +

- Student and teacher exchange have strong indirect effects on social and cultural European citizenship
- Intensive programmes bring different people together
- Projects curriculum development, networking, training
- Examples of political issues, dialogues, cooperation of different parts of EU, blended learning, only a few on European citizenship
- However, not many projects, limited in time, and concerns about sustainability

Improving Erasmus+

- Higher priority in selection. Democracy now one of four priorities.
- Overview and analyses of projects, upscaling
- Small budget for continuing meetings
- Development AND research
- Extra focus on vocational education (shorter and intensive programmes)
- Alliances for citizenship education
- European citizenship

Horizon (2020 and Europe)

- Only a few projects on citizenship education
- Mostly on link public life and citizenship education. Less on school activities and curriculum.
- Citizenship is political sensitive concept. Focus on participation and inclusion, less on democracy and human rights and European citizenship
- Citizenship and the professions, also in Higher Education
- Special call was missing. In 2022 call on Education for Democracy

Other EU-programmes

Europe for Citizens programme.

European remembrance. These are about negative developments. Why no attention for more social-justice movements and efforts to enlarge democracy?

Creative Europe

Link it more with education

Key-competences for LifeLong Learning

Start with developing competences for citizenship: *Citicomp*

ICCS-study

International Civic and Citizenship Study (ICCS)

- 2009, 2016 (14 EU Member States), 2022 (18)
- European module
- EU pays participation-fee

ICCS important in developing concepts and instruments, and measuring practices and outcomes.

And comparing countries and educational settings and methodologies

Council of Europe focus on human rights education.

And many NGOs

Analysis 10 EU Member States: Policy

- Growing importance of citizenship education
- Many debates about citizenship education. It shows the relevance
- Influence of history and context
- Citizenship education at the heart of nation-building
- Good to be political, but not too close
- Tension between democratic values and adaptation
- Nationalism and international orientation: both needed, but contested
- More European citizenship needed

Analysis 10 EU-Member States: Education

- Whole school approach
- Reinforcing position citizenship education, also the subject
- Link schools, communities, and NGOs
- Combining and expanding activities
- Central Agency for citizenship education
- Cooperation of all parts of Europe

Final conclusions

- EU as culture of democracy
- Lively dialogue about content of CE needed
- Balance national, European, and global citizenship
- Better transformation of abstract goals into concrete actions
- Integration and coordination
- Curriculum policy on EU and national level

To do

- A more coherent approach: to sustain democracy
- Cooperating and sharing experiences is a democratic way of developing citizenship education.
- Agency for citizenship education
- Research and development programme
 - Different elements whole school approach
 - Controversial issues
 - Democracy
 - National and international orientation

Higher priority in actions