

eTwinning onsite course - Integrating EU values into the classroom

7-9 November Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Background

According to the [Journal of the European Union \(2012\)](#), "the peoples of Europe, in creating an ever-closer union among them, are resolved to share a peaceful future based on common values". This coupled with the European Union being founded on the indivisible, universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity, places the citizens at the heart of its activities by creating an area of freedom, security, and justice. At a time when democracy is under pressure and cannot be taken for granted, the ministers have refined, and new policies have come to highlight and prioritise the contribution of education and training to strengthen European values and democratic citizenship.

[European values](#) are the norms and values that Europeans are said to have in common, and which transcend national or state identity, these values are human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and human rights ([Ivic., 2019](#)).

According to the Council of Europe ([2023](#)):

"education for democratic citizenship should be based on the development of key competences, including the social, cultural and emotional dimensions, as well as the ability for critical thinking and reflection. It should be based on teaching and learning through, about and for democracy and, in particular, on citizenship competence as the ability to act as a responsible citizen and fully participate in civic and social life, both offline and online, not only at local and national level, but also at European and international level".

As educators, we play a vital role in providing education and training to shape the future of Europe. Education for democratic citizenship is essential for strengthening Europe's resilience during crises and significant changes. It should be a key focus in education and training policies, as it teaches common European values and democratic participation. This is important not only within educational settings but also for wider society. All EU citizens, including newcomers and migrants, need to develop the skills to actively and responsibly participate in society.

For secondary school children, citizenship education is crucial because it fosters self-assurance, a sense of agency, and the capacity to deal with issues like bullying and prejudice. It gives them the ability to speak up in their communities and schools and equips them with the knowledge of their rights and duties to contribute positively ([Young Citizens., 2021](#)). According to the [Eurydice \(2017\)](#) study, national curricula place less emphasis on citizenship education for IVET students than they do on general education, despite stating that they prioritise and promote citizenship education. Less content is given to IVET students that contains citizenship education components, and there are sometimes no specialised citizenship education courses offered.

Goal and objectives

The three-day event aims to equip eTwinning teachers from lower and upper secondary school as well as IVET eTwinners, with the knowledge and tools to effectively promote the European identity and values within their classrooms.

In alignment with the [European Council's call \(2023\)](#) to promote common European values and democratic citizenship, in all levels of education, this event will provide educators with the necessary

tools to cultivate responsible citizens in Europe by fostering its [values](#), media literacy, and inclusive learning environments, while promoting active participation for all.

The objectives of the workshop

In this workshop you will:

- Deepen your understanding on the topic of democratic citizenship and European values in the school's environment
- Gain practical skills and knowledge by exploring strategies and projects related to democratic citizenship education in secondary and IVET teaching and learning.
- Develop practical strategies and learn how to integrate democratic citizenship education and the European values and foster inclusive learning environments into your curriculum.
- Facilitate collaboration by connecting with other educators, share best practices, and develop partnerships for future eTwinning projects.

Format and target audience

The workshop will host a combination of keynotes, workshops, and interactive activities to engage participants and promote peer learning. The workshop will be conducted in English.

The workshop is addressed to teachers, trainers and school leaders working in secondary education and initial vocational education and training (IVET), who are interested in enhancing the quality of their teaching and their learners' experiences of European values and democratic citizenship.

Draft Agenda:

Day 1 – 7 November

14:00- 15:00	Registrations	
15:00 – 15:30	Opening	CSS, NSO
15:30 - 16:00	Keynote 1	TBC
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee break	
16:30 – 17:45	Keynote 2	TBC
17:45 – 18:15	Networking activity: Cross the line	CSS – Bosnian NSO
19:00/19:30	Dinner	

Day 2 – 8 November

9:30 – 11:00	Workshop slot 1: Democracy	CSS and experts
11:00 - 11:30	Short break	
11:30 – 13:00	Workshop slot 2: Citizenship	CSS and experts
13:00- 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 16:00	Workshop slot 3: Future	CSS and experts
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee break	
16:30 – 17:30	Case studies learning journey	
19:00/ 20:00	Dinner	

Day 3 – 9 November

9:30 – 10:00	Keynote 3	TBC
10:00 – 11:00	Presentations from learning journey	CSS
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 12:15	Panel discussion on importance of values in education	TBC
12:15-13:00	Partner finding session	CSS
13:00 – 13:15	Closing	CSS