



TEACH EUROPE

ADD TITLE

**NAME: NEDA
MAĐARAC**

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Teaching about European citizenship across curricula

GOAL: To empower educators with practical tools and strategies to integrate European citizenship into different subjects, making it relevant, engaging, and actionable for students.

Neda Mađarac

YOUR QUESTIONS

- ✓ How can we effectively integrate European citizenship education into subjects that are not directly related to social sciences or political studies?

- ✓ How can we foster and try to strengthen the feeling of belonging and active citizenship by talking about these issues in Citizenship and Intercultural Communication classes when more and more young people are feeling let down by politicians and are scared about their future as citizens and professionals?

(Patrizia, Portugal)

- ✓ Hello, I'm a history teacher and I'm very interested in the topic of the EU. My question is, in this volatile context, with a rise in Eurosceptic nationalism, how can we combat this trend from the classroom without falling into dogmatism? Thank you (Mateo)

Thank you for this interesting questions—it's exactly why we are here today! When we think of European citizenship education, we often associate it with social sciences, history, or political studies. However, the values of European citizenship—democracy, inclusion, human rights, sustainability, cultural diversity—are not related to one subject. They are the foundation of how we interact with each other, make decisions, and contribute to our communities. So, how can we integrate these principles across all subjects?

By connecting Citizenship with everyday learning

In language classes, students can explore narratives from different European cultures, read EU literature, or debate important social issues.

In physical education, fair play and teamwork reflect democratic values—respect, equality, and inclusion in action.

In arts and music, European identity can be explored through artistic movements, cultural heritage, and how art has historically influenced democracy and activism.

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Your question addresses a critical challenge in education today: how to foster a sense of belonging and active citizenship among young people who feel betrayed by politics and uncertain about their future. In Citizenship and Intercultural Communication classes, we can take a practical, empowering, and student-centered approach to help them connect with their role in society. Here's how:

1. Make citizenship personal and relevant

Start with students' lived experiences. Ask them: *What challenges do you see in your community? What would you change if you had the power?*

Discuss real-life stories of young changemakers, activists who are shaping the future of Europe. Use case studies of successful youth initiatives, such as climate action groups, youth-led social enterprises, or EU-funded projects that have made a difference.

2. Connect intercultural communication with belonging

Many students feel disconnected not just from politics, but from their identity as Europeans. Help them see themselves in Europe by: Exploring how their local culture is connected to broader European history.

Using peer exchanges (online or physical) where they interact with students from different countries.

Encouraging multilingual communication to break barriers in expressing ideas and engaging in cross-border dialogue.

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Great question, Mateo! Teaching about European citizenship and integration in a time of rising Eurosceptic nationalism is indeed a challenge, but it's also an opportunity to foster critical thinking, dialogue, and engagement. The key is not to "combat" Euroscepticism directly, but to equip students with the skills and knowledge to analyse, debate, and form their own well-reasoned opinions.

1. Focus on critical thinking, not indoctrination

Encourage students to examine both strengths and challenges of the European Union. Use an inquiry-based approach:

Ask open-ended questions:

"What would Europe look like without the EU?"

"What are the biggest criticisms of the EU, and how valid are they?"

"How does nationalism impact European cooperation?"

Use primary sources: Let students analyse EU political speeches, and data on economic and social impacts to draw their own conclusions.

Host structured debates: Assign students different perspectives on European integration (pro-EU, reformist, nationalist) and have them present arguments.

Brief introduction: The importance of European citizenship education

In today's rapidly changing world, European citizenship education is more important than ever. It goes beyond learning about EU institutions—it's about fostering a sense of belonging, responsibility, and active participation in shaping the future of Europe.

Why is European citizenship education essential?

With declining voter turnout and increasing political disengagement, students need to understand how democracy works and why their voices matter. European citizenship education equips young people with the skills to think critically, engage in democratic debates, and make informed choices about their future.

Promoting inclusion and social cohesion

Europe is diverse, and understanding different cultures, perspectives, and histories helps students develop empathy and a shared European identity. Citizenship education encourages respect for human rights, tolerance, and inclusion, reducing discrimination and fostering social harmony.

Combating misinformation and strengthening media literacy

In an age of fake news and digital manipulation, young people must be able to critically evaluate information and differentiate facts from propaganda. Teaching about European values helps counter disinformation and build resilient, informed citizens.

SLIDO: ACTIVE POLL

Follow-up: What surprises you about the most common responses? How can we help students critically evaluate these claims?

Practical strategies for integrating citizenship education across subjects

Languages & literature:

Explore European perspectives: Read texts from different European cultures and discuss themes of migration, democracy, and human rights. Debate & storytelling: Organize debates on European challenges and let students create narratives about life as a European citizen.

Practical strategies for integrating citizenship education across subjects

STEM SUBJECTS

Link sustainability & EU policies: Discuss the Green Deal and climate action in science.

Ethics in technology: Examine the EU's approach to AI, digital rights, and misinformation.

Data analysis: Use real EU statistics (Eurostat) for mathematics lessons on migration, employment, or climate change.

Practical strategies for integrating citizenship education across subjects

ART AND MUSIC

Explore European heritage: How does art reflect social and political change in Europe?
Music and protest movements: Analyse how songs and artistic movements have influenced democracy.

Practical strategies for integrating citizenship education across subjects

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND STEAM

Fair play & inclusion: Discuss the European values of teamwork, respect, and non-discrimination.

Olympic values & European identity: Explore how international sports promote unity.

Practical strategies for integrating citizenship education across subjects

ICT AND MEDIA LITERACY

Tackle disinformation: Use fact-checking challenges and EU media literacy resources. Teach digital citizenship: Discuss online privacy, cyber rights, and EU laws on data protection (GDPR).

Classroom tested methods and activities

ICT AND MEDIA LITERACY

Project-based learning: Students work on real European issues (e.g., sustainable cities, migration, youth engagement).

Role-playing & simulations: Model European Parliament, Mock EU Council, Citizens' Assembly

Collaborative eTwinning & Erasmus+ Projects: Cross-cultural exchanges to experience European citizenship firsthand.

Gamification & Digital Tools: Interactive EU quizzes, escape rooms, and virtual reality experiences of European history.

Classroom tested methods and activities

Encouraging active citizenship beyond the classroom

Student-led initiatives: Organising local projects on European themes (e.g., climate action, inclusion campaigns).

Community engagement: Connecting classroom lessons with local democratic participation.

EU Resources for schools: Parliament Ambassador Schools, European Youth Portal, eTwinning.

What are your biggest challenges in teaching European citizenship?

Which of today's strategies would work best in your subject area?

How can we collaborate beyond this webinar?

Conclusion and key takeaways

 **Final Reflection: How will you integrate European citizenship in your teaching from now on?**

SLIDO 2

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SLIDO 2

Conclusion and key takeaways

Our journey in teaching European citizenship doesn't end here—it goes through collaboration and shared experiences. By staying connected with like-minded educators across Europe, we can exchange ideas, co-create projects, and inspire each other to make citizenship education meaningful for our students.

How to stay engaged?

Join eTwinning – Connect with teachers across Europe for virtual collaboration, student projects, and professional development.

Get involved in Erasmus+ – Explore mobility programs, exchanges, and partnerships that bring European values to life in your classroom.

Engage with European Parliament Ambassador Schools – Promote active citizenship and democracy through school-based initiatives.

Be part of EU teacher networks – Share resources, lesson plans, and best practices in dedicated online communities.

Bring European citizenship education into everyday learning – No matter what subject you teach, small actions can have a big impact!

FINAL THOUGHT

When we teach European citizenship, we're not just shaping students' knowledge—we're shaping their future as engaged, responsible, and empowered citizens.

together, we can inspire the next generation to take an active role in building the future of Europe!



Thank you!

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