

From classroom to community: equipping teachers for citizenship education

Onsite workshop for early childhood education and primary teachers

Tallin, 17-19 October 2024

Target audience

This workshop is addressed to early childhood education and care (ECEC) teachers and primary education teachers

Background

Education, particularly citizenship education, is vital for the development of individuals within society ([European Committee on Culture and Education, 2022](#)). It not only benefits individuals but also contributes to the welfare of society, as a whole, since it is a set of skills and knowledge that teaches individuals to act responsibly, considering not only their own interests but also those of others and the communities they belong to ([European Commission, 2018](#)). Encouraging and safeguarding young children's active participation and decision-making in society from an early age is essential and their involvement is crucial for fostering a culture of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. During these formative years, children's sense of belonging and identity develops rapidly through their experiences, activities, and relationships with others. Therefore, it is important to integrate citizenship education from the earliest educational grades.

As educators, we have a profound responsibility to nurture the next generation of active and engaged citizens who not only have the necessary knowledge but also the skills and values to contribute positively to their communities and society as a whole. Implementing citizenship in the national curricula, has also become a policy priority at EU level, aiming to enable young people to develop self-awareness as members of a social group, and then possibly play a role and become active citizens at local, national or EU level ([European Parliamentary Research Service, 2023](#)).

But what is “citizenship education”?

According to the Eurydice Brief on Citizenship Education at School in Europe ([2017](#)):

“Citizenship education is a subject area which aims to promote harmonious co-existence and foster the mutually beneficial development of individuals and the communities in which they live. In democratic societies, citizenship education supports students in becoming active, informed and responsible citizens, who are willing and able to take responsibility for themselves and for their communities at the national, European and international level”.

The role of school and eTwinning

Based on the definition above, citizenship education requires action-oriented teaching and learning approaches that can spark pupils' interest and curiosity and enable them to actively engage and critically reflect ([European Commission, 2023](#)). Through the eTwinning community, teachers and schools, by fostering cross-cultural collaboration, can encourage mutual understanding, respect, and active participation in democratic processes. ETwinning enhances awareness of cultural diversity and shared European heritage, but also and equips teachers and students with skills for responsible, inclusive global citizenship.

ETwinning, projects the the aim of quality education, that according to the Council of Europe ([CM/Rec \(2012\)13](#)) should target for the multifaceted goals of education, such as preparing youth for both democratic citizenship and economic participation, fostering personal growth and societal engagement, and developing foundational skills like language, numeracy, and cognition necessary for successful learning across subjects.

The purpose of the workshop

Recognising the pivotal role that schools play in shaping young minds and fostering democratic values, this event will focus on equipping early childhood education and primary education teachers with the knowledge, strategies, and resources needed to effectively integrate citizenship education into their teaching practice. By empowering teachers to foster self-awareness, civic engagement, and inclusivity, we aim to cultivate a generation of responsible and active citizens who will shape a brighter future for all.

The objectives of the workshop

In this 3-day onsite workshop, you will:

- Deepen your understanding of citizenship education, through the different sessions tackling this topic
- Explore the different sub-topics of citizenship education through a series of thematic workshops dedicated to citizenship education
- Gain practical strategies for integrating citizenship education in your classroom, by examining exemplary projects that focus on citizenship education
- Acquire practical tools and resources for empowering students to become active and engaged citizens

Keynote Proposals:

1. Understanding the concept of Citizenship Education through eTwinning

In this keynote participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of citizenship education, including its definition and objectives. Furthermore, they will explore the pivotal role of eTwinning in highlighting the significance of fostering active and responsible citizenship among students.

2. Useful tools for integrating Citizenship education and promoting the European Values in the classroom

In this keynote participants will be introduced to some effective strategies and tools, for integrating citizenship education, and promote the European Values (Human dignity, Freedom, Democracy, Equality, Rule of law, Human rights) into their teaching practices across various subjects. By exploring interdisciplinary approaches, teachers will learn about promoting civic engagement and critical thinking skills.

3. The role of technology in promoting Global Citizenship

In this keynote, participants will explore how digital technology can be leveraged to promote global citizenship and cross-cultural understanding. During this keynote, we will discuss innovative digital initiatives that connect students from different countries and cultures, facilitate virtual exchange programs, and promote empathy and collaboration on a global scale.

Draft Agenda

Day 1 – Thursday 17 October		
Plenary		
14:00 – 15:00	Registrations	
15:00 -15:15	Opening of the Workshop	CSS
15:15-15:30	Introduction speech	EC
15:30 – 16:00	Keynote 1	TBC
16:00– 16:30	Keynote 2	TBC
16:30 – 17:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
17:00 – 18:00	Networking Activity	
18:00 – 18:15	Closing of the day	
Day 2 – Friday 18 October		
Workshops		
09:30 – 11:00	Workshop slot 1	4 in parallel
11.00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:30 - 13:00	Workshop slot 2	4 in parallel
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
14:30 – 16:00	Workshop slot 3	4 in parallel
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
16:30 – 17:30	<i>Networking Activity</i>	
17:30 – 17:45	Closing of the day	
Day 3 – Saturday 19 October		
<i>Plenary</i>		

09:30 – 09:40	Opening of the day	CSS
09:40-10:40	Panel Discussion	(1 ECEC, 1 Primary, 1 school Leader, 1 Organisation)
10:40 – 11:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:15– 11:45	Keynote 3	TBC
11:45– 12:45	Your Voices – Presentation of the Networking	
12:45 - 13:00	Closing of the event	CSS, EC