



Engage, inspire, empower: Citizenship education through eTwinning

eTwinning workshop | 20 - 22 March 2025

Erasmus+

Enriching lives, opening minds.

School education



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PROGRAMME

All times listed in the agenda are in Central European Time (EET)

DAY 1

20 March – Plenary

Venue: Clarion Hotel Helsinki- Tyynenmerenkatu 2, 00220 Helsinki, Finland

(streamed for the online audience – no registration needed)

13:00-14:00

Registration

14:00-14:30

Opening of the day

14:30-15:00

Keynote 1

Strengthening citizenship education for a more inclusive and engaged society

Daria Arlavi

15:00-15:30

Keynote 2

Citizenship education strengthens democracy and societal resilience

Nina Penttinen

15:30-16:00

Break

16:00-18:30

Networking activity

19:30

Dinner at the hotel

DAY 2

21 March – Workshops

Venue: Clarion Hotel Helsinki- Tyynenmerenkatu 2, 00220 Helsinki, Finland

(One room per session will be streamed for the registered online audience)

09:30-11:00

Workshop session 1- 4 in parallel

WS1 Empowering schools for active citizenship *(The workshop is open to the online audience)*

WS2 Shaping tomorrow: the role of sustainable development in fostering inclusive global citizenship

WS3 Making future education more inclusive and accessible

WS4 European Citizenship, what is it and how do you “do” it?

11:00-11:30

Break

11:30-13:00

Workshop session 2 – 4 in parallel

WS5 Greening eTwinning *(The workshop is open to the online audience)*

WS6 Navigating challenges: Key considerations for empowering teachers in their citizenship education role

WS7 Everyday practices of democracy education in classrooms

WS8 Empowering schools for active citizenship

13:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:30

Workshop session 3 – 4 in parallel

WS9 Shaping tomorrow: the role of sustainable development in fostering inclusive global citizenship

WS10 Making future education more inclusive and accessible

WS11 European Citizenship, what is it and how do you “do” it? *(The workshop is open to the online audience)*

WS12 Everyday practices of democracy education in classrooms

15:30-16:00

Break

16:00-18:00

Cultural activity to the Design Museum organised by the National Support Organisation Finland

19:00

Dinner at the Cock restaurant

DAY 3

22 March – Plenary

Venue: Clarion Hotel Helsinki- Tyynenmerenkatu 2, 00220 Helsinki, Finland

(streamed for the online audience – no registration needed)

09:30-10:45

Networking activity outcomes

10:45 –11:15

Break

11:15 –11:45

Keynote 3

Our Europe - a Jean Monnet project to increase knowledge about the EU and European cultural and historical heritagey

Tuija Kae

11:45-12:45

Panel discussion

12:45-13:00

Closing

13:00

Lunch boxes

KEYNOTES

KN 1 **Strengthening citizenship education for a more inclusive and engaged society**


Daria Arlavi | Thursday 20 March, 14:30–15:00 EET

to be added

Daria Arlavi is a dedicated Policy Officer in the Strategy & Investments unit at the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Culture and Sport of the European Commission, with a strong commitment to enhancing educational and cultural policies across Europe.

KN 2 **Citizenship education strengthens democracy and societal resilience**

Nina Penttinen | Thursday 20 March, 15:00–15:30 EET




One of the aims of education is to cultivate socially active citizens who champion democracy and human rights. But how do the curricula of lower and upper secondary education nurture this growth? This keynote examines the role of education in fostering civic engagement, critical thinking and ethical responsibility in students. It also considers how learners' societal resilience and confidence in the future can be increased through education, ensuring they are prepared to navigate an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Nina Penttinen is Counsellor of Education at the Finnish National Agency for Education. Her areas of expertise are history and social studies, democracy and entrepreneurial education. She has also worked as a history and social studies teacher and as a teacher educator.

KN 3 **Our Europe – a Jean Monnet project to increase knowledge about the EU and European cultural and historical heritage**

Tuija Kae | Saturday 22 March, 09:30–10:00 EET



This keynote will present a Jean Monnet project that engaged upper secondary school students in learning about the European Union and various European topics. Through subjects such as English and history, students explored how the EU functions and its main institutions, history and future. The project also introduced a special study unit, Our Europe, featuring a studia generalia lecture series, project work on EU-related topics and a visit to a city with EU institutions, such as Brussels or Luxembourg. Additionally, the school's drama group brought European culture to life by adapting, rehearsing and performing a different European play each year. To further enrich students' understanding, the project culminated in a European theme week every May, with guest lecturers, presentations and an Erasmus+ mobilities fair.

Tuija Kae has worked as a senior teacher of English, a deputy head teacher and an international coordinator for over 25 years at Sotunki Upper Secondary School and Distance Learning Centre in Vantaa, Finland. International cooperation and global education are close to her heart. Apart from teaching, she also works as an assessor for the Finnish Matriculation Examination Board, textbook author, education consultant and in-service training course trainer. She is a recipient of the Fulbright Distinguished Teacher Award 2019–2020.

WORKSHOPS

WS 1 Empowering schools for active citizenship



Jenni Decandia | Friday 21 March, 09:30–11:00 EET *(The workshop is open to the online audience)*

This informative workshop explores the vital role of international project activities in enriching education and fostering active, responsible citizens. It is designed to equip teachers with the knowledge, skills and resources they need to effectively integrate citizenship education into their classrooms and empower students to become active participants in their communities. Focusing on enhancing teaching practices and building social cohesion, the workshop will showcase numerous examples from engaging eTwinning projects and international UNESCO ASPnet school activities.

Jenni Decandia is an education coordinator from Finland, with a diverse background in language teaching, special education and environmental education. She is an eTwinning ambassador, international coordinator of the UNESCO BSP Youth Ambassadors Programme, national coordinator of the UNESCO ASPnet Youth Ambassadors' Network and coordinator of two other Finnish UNESCO ASPnet school networks. Her passion lies in making international experiences accessible to all and empowering students to become active global citizens.

WS 2 Shaping tomorrow: the role of sustainable development in fostering inclusive global citizenship



Tuuli Ahonen | Friday 21 March, 09:30–11:00 EET

Citizenship education is an integral part of sustainable development. Social sustainability particularly strives for tolerance, justice, solidarity and inclusivity, which are all core values of the European Union. The aim of social sustainability teaching falls in line with citizenship education – to prepare students to become active, informed and responsible citizens. This workshop will present social sustainability teaching in the Riveria vocational school, and gives concrete examples from our Erasmus project, Multidisciplinary Sustainable Development in VET, during which teachers and students from three countries visited the parliament to engage in role play as European decision makers. The workshop will include a presentation, discussion and short introduction to decision-making role play.

Tuuli Ahonen is a lecturer of sustainable development at North Karelia Municipal Education and Training Consortium Finland, Riveria. She teaches online courses on sustainable development and circular economy. In addition to teaching, she is involved in different national and international Erasmus projects. In her free time, she works as a translator and is preparing her dissertation in translation studies.

WS 3 Making future education more inclusive and accessible



Sirje Hassinen | Friday 21 March, 09:30–11:00 EET

As society rapidly evolves, education must keep pace to remain relevant, inclusive, innovative and engaging. To meet the demands of a more digital society and an evolving labour market, it is essential to adopt and integrate the latest technologies, such as AI and XR. This workshop explores the Erasmus-funded MaFEA project, which aims to make advanced tools like XR glasses and robots accessible for teachers to use in education. By introducing these technologies and matching them with educational applications, the project enhances the professional development of VET teachers, trainers and mentors. Join us to discover the key findings and resources developed by the MaFEA project to support future-ready teaching and learning.

Sirje Hassinen is an expert in international affairs, and has worked in Omnia's Project Services department for 18 years as the coordinator and project manager of many international projects. Her responsibilities include maintaining a wide variety of international relationships, hosting study visits, events and conferences and working on transnational projects and global networks, including Japan. Her PhD in Linguistics is about Estonian-Finnish bilingualism. As a language teacher, she has a lot of experience as a teacher of first, second and foreign languages at different education levels. Her ambition to connect with new people from different cultures and develop meta skills in an international environment is made possible by her daily work on international affairs.

WS 4 European Citizenship, what is it and how do you "do" it?



Nicole Wieringa | Friday 21 March, 09:30–11:00 EET

This workshop is about making European Citizenship education engaging, interactive and fun – both in and outside the classroom, as well as online through eTwinning. Instead of a traditional lecture, we will take an active role as European citizens, helping to shape the session. Together, we will explore what European citizenship means, why active participation in democracy matters and how to bring these ideas to life for your students. You will get hands-on with practical tools, creative activities and real-world examples that make teaching EU citizenship more exciting. Best practices and innovative teaching strategies will also be shared, to help you integrate these topics into your curriculum. By the end of the workshop, you will leave with fresh ideas, useful resources and the confidence to inspire your students to become engaged and informed European citizens.

Nicole Wieringa is a lawyer (European Law, Human Rights Law). About 20 years ago she switched from international business to education, first in primary, and later in secondary education. She develops cross-curricular and cross-border projects and extracurricular activities concerning the EU and human rights. She is also an eTwinning ambassador, trainer within an EU education programme, moderator of a large network of EU schools, member of the EC Teacher Testing Panel, Erasmus+ project leader and co-developer/author of teaching programmes with Euroclio, the European Association of History Educators. She is not only an eTwinning ambassador but, together with her students, is also an enthusiastic and successful user of eTwinning. She is happy to share her enthusiasm! She has built up extensive knowledge and experience in setting up and implementing EU projects in which European citizenship is central.

WS 5 Greening eTwinning



Julia Gracia | Friday 21 March 11:30–13:00 EET *(The workshop is open to the online audience)*

Greening eTwinning is a workshop designed to equip participating teachers with the necessary resources and pedagogical approaches to integrate education for environmental citizenship into their eTwinning projects. The session will combine key concepts, hands-on collaborative eTwinning activities and interactive group discussions to solve different environment-related challenges.

Julia Gracia is a member of the Spanish NSO. She holds a PhD in Social Sciences and an MSc in Education. Her research focuses on environmental and sustainability education and prevention of radicalisation. She has been a secondary school teacher in Northern Ireland and Spain for 18 years, and has also been an eTwinning Ambassador and Erasmus+ Coordinator.

Lejla Hujdur is a dedicated high school math teacher with 23 years of experience, recognised for innovative teaching methods that enhance student engagement and understanding. As an eTwinning ambassador for the past eight years, she has fostered international collaboration among educators, promoting best practices in teaching. Passionate about lifelong learning, she strives to connect mathematics to real-world applications, believing that math is not just a subject but a vital tool for understanding and participating in society.

WS 6 Navigating challenges: Key considerations for empowering teachers in their citizenship education role

Daria Arlavi | Friday 21 March 11:30–13:00 EET

This workshop will explore key considerations in empowering teachers to effectively implement citizenship education. The discussion will begin by examining the challenges highlighted in the Issue Paper on Citizenship Education, developed by the European Commission Working Group on Equality and Values in Education and Training. The session will focus on the resources and partnerships teachers need to successfully deliver citizenship education and overcome common barriers to its implementation.

Daria Arlavi is a dedicated Policy Officer within the Strategy & Investments unit at the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Culture and Sport of the European Commission, with a strong commitment to enhancing educational and cultural policies across Europe.

WS 7 Everyday practices of democracy education in classrooms



Mikko Hiljanen | Friday 21 March 11:30–13:00 EET

Schools play a significant role in how children and young people grow into members of a democratic society. In the current era, when factors such as the rise of authoritarianism, the spread of fake news and climate change challenge democratic systems, they also pose new challenges for educational systems. This workshop addresses practical questions about democracy education at the school and classroom levels. Using the example of research results from Finland, participants in the workshop are encouraged to reflect on and discuss democracy education in the context of their own countries. The goal is to find common ways to support the democratic system through education, ensuring that children and young people have the necessary knowledge, skills and readiness to participate in a democratic society.

Mikko Hiljanen PhD works as university teacher in the Department of Teacher Education at the University of Jyväskylä, concentrating on studying democracy education and developing it in the context of teacher education.

WS 8 Empowering schools for active citizenship

Jenni Decandia | Friday 21 March 11:30–13:00 EET

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Please see WS 1

WS 9 Shaping tomorrow: the role of sustainable development in fostering inclusive global citizenship

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WS 11 European Citizenship, what is it and how do you “do” it?

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WS 12 Everyday practices of democracy education in classrooms

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Please see WS 7