

B7 - Teaching about the European Union at School

About this session...

The majority of citizens know little about the EU. This leaves them vulnerable to populism and mistrust.

Learning about the European Union at school is crucial. Schools can enhance critical awareness of the European Union and help young people to become active and informed European citizens. They can foster a sense of belonging to the European Union in ways that do not indoctrinate but inspire.

For this reason, a new strand of the Programme will support activities related to learning about the EU beyond higher education, namely in primary and secondary schools. Schools, teacher education institutions and other actors will receive financial support for substantial work on this crucial topic.

This session aims to collect concrete advice on how to best frame and implement this new strand.

The overall objective is to:

1. Help young people to gain knowledge and understanding of the European Union, including its history, its values and aims, its institutions and its decision-making processes;
2. Enhance the young citizens' critical awareness of what the European Union stands for and help them understand the difference the EU makes to people's daily lives;
3. Enhance the pupils' understanding of the European integration process and their motivation to participate in the democratic processes that shape the future of the European Union;
4. Train and support teachers to enable them to better inform, educate and inspire young citizens about the European Union.

Something to think about...

What kind of activities for schools and/or for teachers and teacher education bodies should be made available through this new strand of the Programme?

In addition to schools and teacher education bodies, are there other knowledgeable actors that should be eligible to participate in the activities that this new strand of the Programme will support?

What kind of synergies with external knowledgeable actors can support schools in their work on this topic?

What are the main barriers to promoting the teaching and learning about the EU at school?

What factors result in effective teaching and learning about the European Union? What do schools and teachers need and what can the Commission offer to support the effective learning about the European Union in schools?