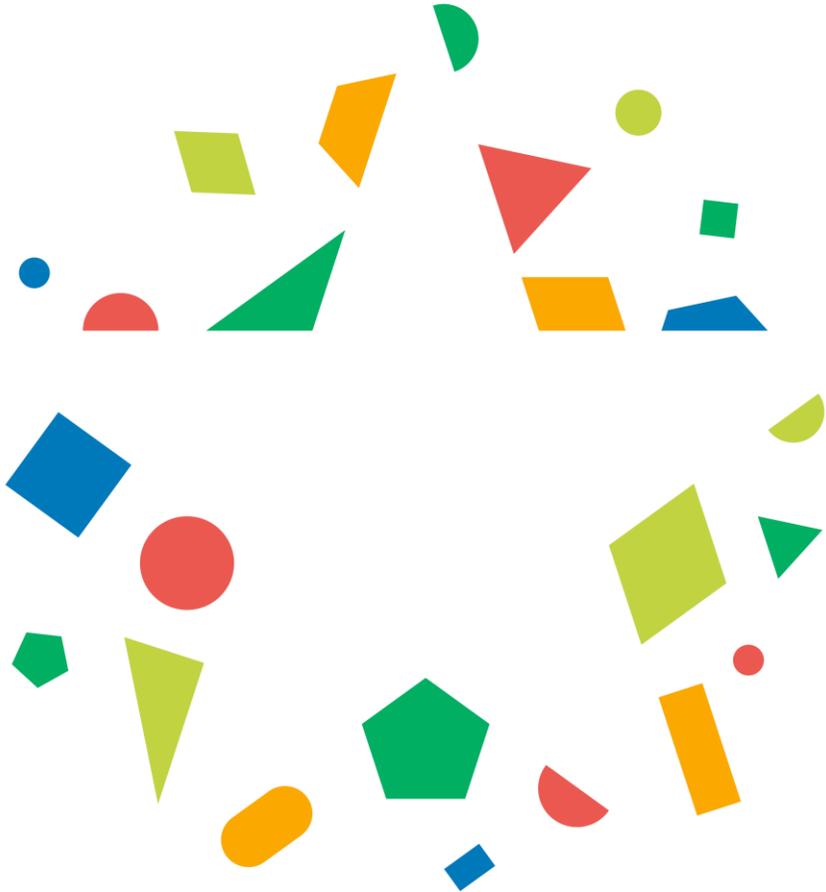




European  
Commission

# CO-CREATING ERASMUS+ AND THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS





# TEACHING ABOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION AT SCHOOL

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# WHY BOTHER ?

- The majority of citizens know little about the European Union.
- Vulnerable to populism, mistrust and alienation from the EU.

# WHY SCHOOLS ?

Schools can:

- enhance critical awareness of the European Union;
- help pupils become active and informed European citizens;
- foster a sense of belonging to the European Union in ways that do not indoctrinate but inspire.

# CURRENT SITUATION

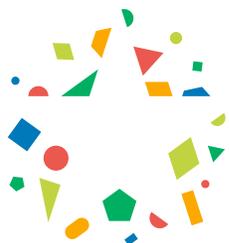
- Great differences between Member States.
- Disparity in **teachers' preparation** for teaching about the EU.
- Learning about the EU depends on **teachers' motivation and personal convictions**. Its importance is not universally recognised within the profession.
- **Materials & Methods:** Relatively small coverage of EU topics in textbooks. Teachers also use other resources. The Learning Corner is one of them.
- **Support** for teachers from the school head and/or external actors is important.
- **Extra-curricular activities** exist in all Member States – by other actors.

# THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL

Serious investment is necessary  
in **teacher training** and in the **sharing of good practices**



- A new strand of Jean Monnet Activities - to support teaching and learning about the EU beyond higher education (article 7).
- Mainly for primary and secondary schools.
- For Programme countries only.
- To be implemented centrally by the EAC Executive Agency.



# OBJECTIVES

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

# GROWING DEMAND

- 2016 European Parliament Resolution ***Learning EU at School*** - called on the Commission and the Member States for action.
- 2018 **Council Recommendation** on “promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching” - put learning about the EU on the policy agenda.
- Sibiu Communication ***Europe in May 2019*** - stressed the importance of enhancing the citizens’ understanding of the EU through teaching about the EU at all levels of education.
- European Economic and Social Committee: opinions ***Education about the EU*** and ***Teaching Europe – developing a toolkit for schools*** in 2019 - call for national and EU-level actions to promote learning about the EU through education.

# ACTIVITIES ENVISAGED AT PRESENT

- LearningEU@School **Initiatives** to boost learning about the EU in ways that inspire. To be implemented by a group of schools within a region or country or schools in different counties. To bring together several schools (and, depending on the character of the initiative, also non-school actors). Activities may include the development of curriculum content, summer schools or project weeks, study visits, debates, competitions and other immersive activities.
- LearningEU@School **Teacher Education Activities**, initial and in-service.

# POSSIBLE PARTICIPANTS / BENEFICIARIES

- **Primary and secondary schools**, both general and vocational.
- **Teacher education bodies** (HE institutions, teacher education academies or other teacher education bodies).
- **Other actors :**
  - governmental/ministries
  - non-governmental
  - Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence
  - think tanks and research foundations
  - academic associations
  - teacher associations
  - ...

# QUESTIONS FOR THIS SESSION

1. **What types of activities** should we support through this new strand of the Programme?
2. **Who** should be eligible to participate in the activities that this new strand of the Programme will support?
3. What are the main **barriers** to effective teaching and learning about the EU in schools? What are the main success factors? How can the new strand of the programme contribute to removing the barriers and to nurturing success factors?
4. Who are **the other (external) actors** who can support schools in their work in this field? What synergies are possible?

# A WRITTEN CONTRIBUTION ?

If you wish to send a written contribution, send it to:

[EAC-JM-SCHOOLS@EC.EUROPA.EU](mailto:EAC-JM-SCHOOLS@EC.EUROPA.EU)