

Template for Classifying Best Practices in Teaching EU Matters

1. Basic Information

- Title/Name of the Best Practice: Europe in The Classroom (Europa en el aula)
- Country/Region of Origin: Spain
- Institution/Organization Implementing the Practice: Equipo Europa
- Kind of activity: Informal/non-formal activity, group activity, face-to-face (analogue), digital resources
- Target Audience: High school and VET students (ages 14–20), teacher
- Duration of the activity: Varies; typically 1–3 hours per session
- Accessibility: Free
- Year of Implementation: 2023
- Contact Information: formacion@equipoeuropa.org

2. Description of the Practice

- **Objective:**
*The objective of **Europa en el Aula** is to promote awareness and understanding of European Union institutions, values, and opportunities among young students. The project aims to foster active EU citizenship by educating participants about their rights and responsibilities as European citizens and encouraging engagement in European initiatives, democratic processes, and mobility programs.*
- **Description of Activities:**
***Europa en el Aula** consists of interactive workshops and educational sessions designed to bring EU-related topics into classrooms in an engaging and dynamic way. The methodology combines storytelling, debates, and gamification to ensure an interactive learning experience.*

Step-by-step implementation:

1. **Preparation:** Schools and educators contact Equipo Europa to schedule a session. Materials and resources are shared in advance to align with the educational objectives.

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2. **Workshop Introduction:** Facilitators introduce the session by explaining the European Union, its institutions, and key themes related to EU citizenship.
 3. **Interactive Activities:** Students participate in hands-on activities, including role-playing debates, simulations, and quizzes about EU policies, decision-making, and civic rights.
 4. **Discussion & Reflection:** After the activities, students reflect on the importance of active citizenship and discuss how they can engage in EU programs like Erasmus+ or participate in European elections.
 5. **Closing & Call to Action:** The session concludes with information on further opportunities for youth involvement in European initiatives, such as youth exchanges, volunteering programs, and networking events.
- **EU Citizenship Focus Areas:** EU Institutions and Decision-Making Processes, Civic Participation and Democratic Engagement, European Values and Fundamental Rights, European Identity and Cultural Diversity, EU Law and Policies, Sustainable Development and Green EU, Social Inclusion and Equal Rights and Opportunities for Youth in the EU (Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, etc.)

Strong points	Weak points
Interactive and Engaging: The methodology includes debates, role-playing, and gamification, making EU topics more appealing to students.	Requires External Facilitation: Schools depend on external organizations (Equipo Europa) to implement the activity, limiting scalability.
Encourages Civic Participation: Promotes active citizenship by informing students about their rights and opportunities within the EU	Not Part of the Formal Curriculum: Since it is an extracurricular or non-formal activity, it may not reach all students
Easily Adaptable: The workshop format can be adjusted for different age groups and educational levels.	Limited Follow-up: While the session raises awareness, there is no structured follow-up to ensure long-term engagement.
Free and Accessible: The initiative is available at no cost to schools, ensuring inclusivity.	Resource-Dependent: Schools need proper materials and coordination with facilitators to host the sessions effectively.

3.

Pedagogical Details:

- **Teaching Methodology (Resources and Tools Used):**
 - **Multimedia Content:** Videos, presentations, and interactive online resources about the EU.
 - **Printed Materials:** Booklets, infographics, and case studies explaining EU institutions and policies.
 - **Online Quizzes and Tools:** Digital platforms for knowledge assessment and engagement.

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- **Guest Speakers:** Experts and professionals from EU institutions or youth organizations provide real-world insights.

 - **Innovative Aspects:**
 - **Combination of Formal and Non-Formal Education:** Integrates engaging, informal learning techniques into traditional classroom settings.
 - **Gamified Learning:** Uses interactive elements like quizzes and simulations to enhance student interest.
 - **Youth-Led Approach:** Sessions are often facilitated by young EU advocates, creating peer-to-peer learning dynamics.
 - **Focus on Practical EU Citizenship:** Encourages students to apply what they learn through participation in EU programs (e.g., Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps).

 - **Adaptability to VET Settings:**
 - The methodology can be **easily replicated** in different educational environments.
 - It aligns with **VET curricula on civic education, international relations, and sustainable development.**
 - **Minimal resources needed**—schools can implement the practice using available digital and printed materials.
 - Can be **integrated into workshops, citizenship courses, or interdisciplinary projects** in VET institutions across Europe.
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4. Outcomes and Impact (if these data are available)

- **Measured Outcomes:**
 - Impact on Students and Teachers:**
 - Over **1,500 students** across Spain have participated in the workshops since its launch.
 - Increased awareness and understanding of **EU institutions, rights, and citizenship opportunities** among participants.
 - Encouraged students to **engage in European programs** such as Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, and EU Youth Dialogues.
 - Positive influence on civic engagement, with many students expressing interest in participating in **EU elections and policy discussions.**

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- **Student/Teacher Feedback:**

"A great initiative! It makes EU topics accessible and engaging for students."

"We need more programs like this integrated into the curriculum to promote active citizenship."

"The session was eye-opening. I never realized how many opportunities young people have within the EU."

"I now understand how EU decisions affect my daily life and how I can get involved."

- **Evidence of Success:**

- The initiative has been **featured in various educational events** promoting EU citizenship education.
- Collaboration with **educational institutions and local governments** to expand its reach.
- Recognized as a **best practice in informal EU education** by youth organizations in Spain.
- Positive media coverage highlighting its role in **enhancing democratic participation among young people**.

5. Inclusivity and Accessibility (if these data are available)

- **How Inclusive is the Practice?**

The "Europa en el Aula" (Europe in the Classroom) project aims to promote pro-Europeanism through education by introducing an optional subject about the European Union in schools across various autonomous communities in Spain. This initiative seeks to make the EU's institutional framework understandable and to foster European citizenship among students. By integrating this subject into the curriculum, the project addresses diverse learning needs and cultural differences, ensuring that students from various backgrounds gain a comprehensive understanding of the EU's impact on different aspects of life and the opportunities it offers for youth.

- **Accessibility of Resources:**

The project provides informative talks delivered by members of Equipo Europa to schools interested in participating. Schools can request these sessions by contacting the organization via email. If members are available in the school's autonomous community, they will arrange to deliver the talk. This approach ensures that educational materials and resources are readily available and easy to use, as they are directly presented to students in their learning environment. Additionally, the

project encourages schools to celebrate Europe Day on May 9th with activities directed at students, further enhancing the accessibility and engagement with the provided resources.

6. Alignment with EU Citizenship Education Goals (if these data are available)

- **Relevance to EU Citizenship Topics:**

The "Europa en el Aula" (Europe in the Classroom) project is designed to familiarize students with the European Union by introducing an optional subject focused on the EU and providing informative talks delivered by members of Equipo Europa. This initiative aims to demystify the EU's institutional framework, making it more comprehensible to students, and to foster European citizenship. By educating students about the EU's influence on various aspects of daily life and the opportunities it offers for youth, the project directly promotes understanding of EU-related themes.

- **Policy Alignment:**

The project aligns with both EU and national education policies that emphasize the importance of citizenship education. At the EU level, there is a strong focus on enabling young people to develop self-awareness as members of a social group and to become active citizens at local, national, or EU levels. Similarly, EU Member States have been placing a stronger emphasis on teaching values such as democracy and tolerance in their national educational policies.

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By advocating for the inclusion of an optional subject about the EU in school curricula, "Europa en el Aula" supports these policy objectives, promoting active citizenship and a deeper understanding of the EU among students.

7. Additional Notes or Recommendations

- **Challenges in Implementation:**

One potential challenge in implementing the project is ensuring the availability of qualified speakers across all autonomous communities. Coordinating schedules and securing commitments from members of Equipo Europa to deliver talks in various regions may require significant logistical planning. One major challenge could also be whether this can be replicated in different countries without Equipo Europa, which is typically responsible for structuring the event.

- **Suggestions for Improvement:**

To enhance the project's reach and effectiveness, it could be beneficial to develop digital resources, such as online modules or webinars, to complement in-person talks. This approach would ensure that all interested schools, regardless of location, have access to the educational materials. Additionally, establishing partnerships with local educational authorities could facilitate the integration of the optional EU subject into school curricula more seamlessly.

- **Additional Resources (if applicable):**

For further information on citizenship education policies and initiatives within the EU, the European Commission's report on "Citizenship Education in Europe" provides comprehensive insights.

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