

# Quick Wins

## 1. Basic Information

- Title/Name of the Quick Win: Debates on European policies with the support of external experts
  - Country/Region of Origin: Italy
  - Institution/Organization Implementing the Practice: Istituto Buonarroti Trento
  - Target Audience: fourth year students
  - Duration of the activity: 6 hours in total (divided into 3 lessons of 2 hours each)
  - Accessibility: during school activity, accessible for students of the school
  - Year of Implementation: 2024 and previous years
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## 2. Description of the Quick Win

### • Description of Activities

The school actively promotes students' awareness and engagement with European institutions, values, and citizenship through a dual approach: integrating European topics into the curriculum and leveraging European projects and mobility programs. This ensures that students gain both theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience, equipping them with the skills necessary to actively participate in European civic life. Students develop a foundational understanding of European institutions, history, and policies through subjects such as history, law, and civic education. Law is included in the first two years, providing an introduction to European institutions and key treaties, such as the Treaty of Rome. However, deeper exploration of European matters is often dependent on the choices made by class councils regarding Civic Education, which is a mandatory but cross-cutting subject rather than a stand-alone course. To enhance this learning, the school participates in initiatives like the **Antonio Megalizzi Foundation (<https://www.fondazioneantonimegalizzi.eu/offerta-formativa-progetto-ambasciatori/>)**, which fosters youth engagement in European civic education. Through this collaboration, students engage in **debates, workshops, and discussions** that explore key European themes such as democracy, EU citizenship, and current policy challenges. External experts support these sessions, ensuring that students gain well-rounded perspectives.

- **Why is this approach useful to teach EU matters?**

This approach is useful for teaching EU matters because it combines theoretical knowledge with experiential learning, making European institutions, values, and policies more accessible and engaging for students.

By integrating EU topics into the curriculum and supplementing them with interactive activities, such as debates and discussions supported by the Antonio Megalizzi Foundation, this method addresses a key challenge: the limited depth of EU education in traditional school programs. While law and history provide a foundation, they often lack practical applications that connect students to real-world European issues. This approach ensures that students actively engage with European citizenship, democracy, and policy debates, developing critical thinking, communication skills, and civic awareness. The collaboration with external experts provides firsthand insights into EU governance, making learning more dynamic and relevant. The immediate benefits include increased student interest, deeper understanding of EU affairs, and enhanced participation in civic life, ultimately empowering young people to become informed and active European citizens.

- **Why is it a quick win?**

This action is a quick win because it is easy to implement and provides immediate educational benefits with minimal resources. By leveraging external expertise, such as the Antonio Megalizzi Foundation, schools gain access to structured activities, expert-led discussions, and ready-made materials, reducing the need for additional teacher preparation. These stakeholders typically offer their support for free, eliminating costs for the school. Additionally, this approach can be applied across multiple classes or grade levels with minimal adjustments, ensuring long-term sustainability without requiring significant new resources.

- **How to make this approach successful?**

To ensure success, start by partnering with experts like the Antonio Megalizzi Foundation for structured activities and discussions. Next, integrate activities into the curriculum by linking them to history, law or civic education. If time is tight, use project weeks or extracurricular clubs.

- **Related resources**

<https://www.fondazioneantoniomegalizzi.eu/offerta-formativa-progetto-ambasciatori/>

- **Additional Notes:**

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