Template for Classifying Quick Wins in Teaching EU Matters

1. Basic Information

- Title/Name of the Quick Win: "Elections"

- Country/Region of Origin: Finland

- Institution/Organization Implementing the Practice: VET school

- Target Audience: Student age range 16 years up, can be implemented also in various ways with smaller pupils

- Duration of the activity: preparation and election together 1 day

- Accessibility: Free

- Year of Implementation: 2024

- Contact Information https://luovi.fi/en/international-activities/

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2. Description of the Quick Win

- **Description of Activities:**

  "Shadow elections" or simulation of elections can be organized in the educational institution, on a current theme, e.g. local elections, parliamentary elections or even with a funny twist like choosing your favorite a Eurovision representative. For example the student board elections can be organized to simulate actual voting.

   Students learn to choose their own candidate and vote for it according to the official protocol. This reduces the barriers to following and participating in official election events. Youth elections in Finland, an election event organized by an external operator. You can register for a national voting event and the results will be published nationally.

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

  The context and common Europe is visible and becomes closer to young people and their world of thought. At the same time, being able to discuss political trends -> the method for active citizenship. Media literacy, reasoning.

Simulating elections in the school world is very important to support students' active citizenship. By simulating elections at school, students get practical experience of democratic processes and learn to understand the meaning of voting. This helps them develop critical thinking and understand how their voice can influence societal decisions. In addition, election simulation can increase young people's interest in politics and social issues, which can lead to higher voting activity in the future.

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

Iinformation about elections can be found in the local news and the date is available, voting is quick when there is paper and pen. Depending on the topic, the election can be held quickly with little preparation.

How to make this approach successful?

It is important to make the simulation as interactive and inclusive as possible. For example, you can give students roles such as candidates, voters, and election officials so they can experience different perspectives of the election process. This helps them understand how elections work and why they are important.
This activity could also be "upgraded" with the use technology. For example, voting machines and digital voting systems can make the process more modern and attractive to young people. Also, it could be interesting to use social media and other digital platforms to organize campaigns and discussions.

Most important thing is to connect the simulation to current topics that interest young people. This can help them see how politics and elections affect their own lives and communities. Also debates and panels can be organized where young people can ask questions and talk to candidates and experts.

It´s important to create a positive and supportive atmosphere where all students feel comfortable and valued. This can help increase their motivation and interest in participating in the election simulation. Everyone can participate and make their voice heard. Understanding the basics of democracy.

Identify potential challenges and how to overcome them.

In general, this practice can be organized quickly with minimal preparation—making them a practical "quick win" activity. However, some challenges may still arise depending on the scale and depth of implementation. For example, organizing more elaborate simulations or debates alongside the election process may require additional time and effort from teachers, especially in resource-limited settings. Furthermore, ensuring that all students are actively involved and motivated can be difficult, particularly if some are

initially disengaged or lack interest in political topics. These challenges highlight the importance of balancing simplicity with meaningful engagement.

- **Related resources**

  NA

- **Additional Notes:**

  NA