

Quick Wins

1. Basic Information

- Title/Name of the Quick Win: Study Trip to Brussels - Experiencing European Institutions Firsthand
 - Country/Region of Origin: Italy
 - Institution/Organization Implementing the Practice: Istituto Buonarroti Trento
 - Target Audience: fourth year students
 - Duration of the activity: 2/3 days
 - 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:**

A highlight of the school's European engagement is the annual study trip to Brussels, organized in collaboration with the Trentino Region office in Brussels. This opportunity is open to ten students per school from three institutions and offers direct insight into European governance.

During the trip, students:

- Visit key European institutions
- Attend European Commission meetings
- Participate in debates on EU policies

To prepare participants, online meetings are held before departure, allowing students to get to know each other and complete research assignments on topics such as the history of the European Union or the conflict in Ukraine. A list of thought-provoking questions is provided to help them develop critical reflections and arrive in Brussels well-prepared. Selection is based on students from the fourth year, assessed through a motivation letter and their academic curriculum.

During their stay in Brussels, students participate in daily meetings with professionals working on various European issues.

These experiences contribute to developing a deeper awareness of the European Union and the active role that young people can play within it.

The activity is financed with KA1 funds.

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

This approach is useful for teaching EU matters because it combines experiential learning with structured preparation, ensuring that students gain both theoretical knowledge and practical insights:

1. Hands-on Experience, by visiting key European institutions and attending European Commission meetings, students witness EU governance in action. This direct exposure makes the functioning of the EU more tangible and engaging compared to traditional classroom learning.
2. Interdisciplinary Preparation, preparatory online meetings and research assignments ensure that students arrive well-informed, allowing for more meaningful participation in Brussels.
3. The competitive selection process ensures that participants are highly motivated and prepared, leading to more productive discussions and a strong learning environment.
4. Using KA1 funds ensures the accessibility and continuity of the initiative, allowing more students to benefit from this immersive learning experience.

This approach transforms EU education from a theoretical subject into an interactive, real-world experience, making learning more impactful and relevant to students' lives.

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

This action is a **quick win** because

- The study trip utilizes existing **EU institutions and regional offices** in Brussels, meaning no need to create new educational structures or partnerships from scratch
- The collaboration with the **Trentino Region office** provides logistical support, reducing organizational complexity.
- The activity is financially supported by **KA1 Erasmus+ funding**, making it affordable and sustainable.
- The preparatory phase consists of **online meetings and research assignments**, which require **minimal resources** and can be completed remotely.
- Students can prepare in their own time, reducing the need for intensive teacher involvement.

- The format is **easy to replicate** with other schools and regions, as it follows a structured approach.
- Once established, the initiative can be **repeated annually with minimal adjustments**, making it a **sustainable quick win**.

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

To ensure the success of the study trip to Brussels, it is essential to follow a few key guidelines:

- Establish a project team within the school to oversee coordination and logistics.
- Collaborate with the regional office in Brussels or other relevant stakeholders to secure access to key meetings and visits.
- Plan at least six months in advance to allow sufficient time for student selection, preparation, and travel arrangements.
- Address potential challenges, such as limited availability of institutional visits, by booking appointments well in advance.
- Select motivated students based on a motivation letter to ensure active engagement and meaningful participation.

- **Related resources**

NA

- **Additional Notes:**

Consider sharing photos or videos of the experience in Brussels to further inspire and promote the activity