

Teaching about the EU

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ILDE = Initiative for Learning Democracy in Europe

An initiative of NEF

NEF = Network of European
Foundations



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Network of European Foundations (NEF)

- not-for-profit international organisation - Brussels
- acts as an operational platform to develop projects between foundations and other types of organised philanthropy and other giving programmes
- gives a European perspective and opportunities for European experience to regional/ local initiatives
- issues - migration, European citizenship, European integration process, youth empowerment, global European projects



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NEF members

- European Cultural Foundation
- King Baudouin Foundation
- European Foundation Centre
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Fundacao Calouste Gulbekian
- Charities Aid Foundation
- Fondation de France
- Fondation Gabriel
- Stiftelsen Riksbankens Jubileumsfond
- Robert Bosch Stiftung
- Bernard van Leer Foundation
- Compagnia di San Paulo
- Erste Stiftung
- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust



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The task ...

- develop on-line teaching materials about the EU
- 'vocational' students
- 14-19 age range
- across EU + candidate countries



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Where are we starting from?

- restricted knowledge of EU – random pieces of information
- knowledge of Europe vague - less likely to have travelled
- sense of citizenship undefined or non-existent – little awareness of ‘public’ realm, sense of belonging or agency



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What do we want to achieve?

- clearer sense of citizenship – aware of a public realm that has relevance for them, and in which they can participate
- wider awareness of Europe – as a place
- more balanced knowledge and critical understanding of EU – what it does and how well it does it



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So what kind of pedagogy?

- Dealing with the EU
 - *focus on purpose – what is it supposed be for? (rather than institutions, facts and figures, MEPs) – intergovernmental co-operation*
- Choosing content
 - *familiar, everyday life – concrete examples - real incidents – problematic*
- Deciding methods
 - *critical thinking, collaborative, interactive - (local) practical investigation – possibility of follow-up action*



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What is the EU for? ... 7 units

Environment

Creating a greener planet?

Law and Order

Protecting us against crime?

Consumer Protection

Getting us a fair deal?

Work

Creating better jobs?

Equality

Giving us equal rights?

Minorities

Helping everyone feel they belong?

The World

Making the world a better place?



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Structure of the units

- Story – *involving more than one country*
- Discussion – *would it help if countries got together?*
- Case study – *real life example from Europe*
- Wider information – *what the EU is supposed to be doing*
- Practical investigation – *what is happening in reality*
- Self-evaluation – *learning from the experience*
- Teacher notes – *EU policy and practice, pros and cons*



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